Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-221
Thursday
18 November 1993

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Sources Report Contacts for 'Arafat-Rabin Meeting

NC1811102593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, 18 Nov (MENA)—Knowledgeable Palestinian sources have stated that the meeting between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin scheduled for Cairo in December was agreed upon through contacts made by other parties. The sources said the parties conveyed Rabin's desire to 'Arafat that he present all his ideas for the next stage in a written message. When 'Arafat rejected this, it was decided to hold the meeting in early December.

The sources said Rabin has recently involved his close associates in the negotiations and excluded the associates of Foreign Minister Peres, who demonstrate flexibility. Rabin wants to show a stern attitude to security issues, such as those of borders, crossings, settlements, and detainees.

Palestinian sources have indicated that 'Arafat instructed Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, not to go to Taba and hold meetings there before the subcommittee has solved all the issues under discussion.

The same sources said that the Palestinian president has asked Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, and Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, head of the PLO Economic Department, to formulate ideas for setting up the Palestinian bank for reconstruction and development. But this project should be approved by the Economic Commission, the sources added.

Agreement Said Reached on Roads, Border Crossings

NC1711210793 Paris AFP in English 2026 GMT 17 Nov 93

[By Mona Salem]

[Text] Cairo, Nov 17 (AFP)—Israeli and PLO negotiators reached agreement here Wednesday [17 November] on roads, border crossings and coastal waters in secret negotiations on implementing the Palestinian autonomy deal, sources close to the talks said.

The accord came at the end of talks of the restricted Israeli-Palestinian committee which met for the second time in Cairo.

The two sides agreed Israeli forces will patrol roads in the Gaza Strip and Jericho region, but will not be able to set up fixed checkpoints.

Israel had wanted to set up nine posts in the Gaza Strip alone, the sources said.

On the border between the Gaza Strip and Israel, Israel dropped a demand to keep its forces on the Palestinian side of the boundary. But the Palestinians agreed to leave a 100-meter (yard) wide strip vacant on their side.

Israeli forces will be stationed "strictly inside" the 19 settlements, home to some 4,000 Jews.

The delineation of these settlements has yet to be determined as will the number of troops to be stationed in them, the sources said.

The Israeli-PLO agreement signed September 13 in Washington stipulates that Israeli forces and civilians can continue using internal roads in the Gaza Strip and Jericho region freely, which would automatically allow the soldiers to patrol the main roads, the sources explained.

The Israelis also agreed that the future Palestinian authority would control the territorial waters up to 20 nautical miles off the coast.

Palestinian fisherman will only need permission from the Palestinian authorities to put to sea.

Four key issues have yet to be resolved, participants said:

First, control of the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, notably the Rafah border checkpoint and of the Allenby bridge connecting the Jericho region to Jordan.

Second, the geographical limits of the Jericho region. The Palestinians still call for a return to the limits set by the Jordanian administration which controlled the area, or some 340 square kilometers (131 square miles).

Israel holds to the limits it set following its occupation of Jericho in 1967, or 25 square kilometers (9.6 square miles).

Third, the exact limits of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip are more important to the Palestinians since that is where Israeli troops will be stationed to protect settlers in the strip. The larger the settlement, the more soldiers to be deployed in it.

Fourth, the problem of 11,400 prisoners still held by Israel and whose release the PLO has demanded since the start of the negotiations. Of the 12,000 Palestinians counted after the Israeli-PLO accord was signed, 600 were freed last month, in line with age and health criteria.

Agreement on the Palestinian police force to be deployed in the Gaza Strip and Jericho has not yet been reached but the sources said it was not part of the sensitive issues to be settled.

The Israelis and Palestinians must reach agreement by December 13, the date for Israel to begin its withdrawal under the autonomy deal.

Palestinian and Israeli negotiators will meet again next Tuesday in Cairo at the same secret location, the sources said.

Withdrawal 'Target Date' Said Unlikely Due to 'Gaps'

TA1711193493 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Israeli and Palestinian sources have expressed the assessment that it will be very difficult to complete the agreement on the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho before the 13 December target date.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that although progress has been made at the Cairo talks with regard to the definition of Israel's security needs, significant gaps between the two sides remain.

Our correspondent adds that meanwhile, the PLO has asked Israel to permit approximately 20 armed fugitives in the territories to turn their weapons in to Faysal al-Husayni. The Palestinians also proposed considering the appointment of PLO liaison officers in the various districts. The PLO proposed that a group of Fatah deportees who are considered to have influence in the territories be appointed to fill the posts.

Shahal Reportedly Joins 'Secret' Cairo Talks

TA1711134193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Minister Moshe Shahal today joined the Israeli-PLO secret talks on the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, a source close to the deliberations announced. Shahal arrived in Cairo before noon today for talks on cooperation on energy issues.

Shahal Denies Participation

TA1811075493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Moshe Shahal, minister of police and energy and infrastructure, in Cairo, by Hayim Zissowitz in the studio—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning, sir.

[Shahal] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] You have participated in the discussions of the joint Israeli-Palestinian committee.

[Shahal] Is that a question or a statement?

[Zissowitz] It is a question.

[Shahal] No, no, I did not participate.

[Zissowitz] What was the purpose of your Cairo visit?

[Shahal] I was invited for a working visit by the Egyptian Government, the Egyptian petroleum and mineral resources minister. I have meetings with the ministers....

[Zissowitz, interrupting] Yet there were reports here that you had joined the talks of the committee.

[Shahal] There have? I do not know anything about that.

[Zissowitz] You do know, however, about these discussions, about one of the controversial issues which remains unresolved—the Palestinian demand for the release of some 14,000 security prisoners. Will Israel be ready to compromise on this issue?

[Shahal] I believe this issue was discussed on several occasions. The Knesset, the prime minister, and others have addressed it. There are two angles to this issue. Some of the prisoners who were sentenced to relatively short terms had been tried for offenses, such as membership in the PLO, which are no longer relevant. The moment this organization recognized Israel and pledged to disown terror, the circumstances changed and these offenses became irrelevant. The other criterion is what the said prisoner will do once he is released, whether his own pledge and his affiliation assure that he will not pursue terrorist activities.

[Zissowitz] We will not discuss all the terms, but Palestinian spokesman Nabil Sha'th says that this issue is a firm precondition for them, and no agreement will be accomplished without it.

[Shahal] The agreement itself does not stipulate this term, but some cases fall within reasonable parameters, and the prime minister referred to this even before conditions or ultimatums were made. It stands to reason that we will not want to keep 4,000 or 5,000 prisoners sentenced to three or four years for stone throwing or membership in a hostile organization. Beyond that, however, we must not take declarations too seriously. Declarations reflect stands each side would like to present to its own audience. In practical terms, the two very logical criteria to which I have referred are more or less the basis for accord.

[Zissowitz] Will Israel reassess its position on this issue in view of the recent wave of terror?

[Shahal] I do not think the two things should be automatically associated. The recent terror has a reason, but the two are not necessarily interlinked. Those who resort to terror, perpetrating appalling deeds, are people for whom past prison sentences make no difference. They simply take a knife and proceed to kill. Their motivation is different, their orientation is different.

[Zissowitz] But those who have recently revived the intifadah include Fatah elements, such as the al-Shabibah movement, which has openly called for attacks on soldiers.

[Shahal] We do have to take a serious view of that.

[Zivoswitz] Was this raised in meetings with the Palestinians?

[Shahal] It certainly was. This is one of our demands. We demand that the PLO adhere to its commitment to impose discipline on factions affiliated with it.

[Zivoswitz] Does the al-Shabibah call constitute a violation of the 13 September agreement with the PLO?

[Shahal] It undoubtedly contravenes the agreement clause saying that the PLO will both avoid and condemn terror and violence. The term violence includes everything, both words and deeds.

[Zivoswitz] What about Hanan 'Ashrawi's saying after yesterday's murder that this is the genuine reaction of the Palestinian people which has begun to doubt Israel's intentions and credibility. Her remarks were made in response to the al-Shabibah call as well. Thus, the Palestinian representatives have not denounced the revolt in their midst.

[Shahal] I have not heard about it, but I read in a local paper today that PLO-Tunis has denounced the Nahal 'Oz murder. Look, I do not have to comment on Hanan 'Ashrawi's remarks; no one has monopoly on unwise statements. I think her remarks are ill-advised, aggravating, totally unacceptable, and I believe someone ought to say in no uncertain terms that if Ms. 'Ashrawi represents the organization with which we signed an agreement, she should not make such statements.

[Zivoswitz] One last question. Will withdrawal start on 13 December?

[Shahal] Withdrawal was never planned for 13 December; 13 December is the date by which details should be finalized. Withdrawal itself is scheduled for April. I believe the security segment of the talks will be completed by 13 December, and the other discussions, such as economic an procedural issues, will continue after that date.

[Zivoswitz] Thank you very much, Minister Moshe Shahal.

PLO Plans Jericho Fence; Talks Relocation Considered

TA181112493 Tel Aviv YEDIOT HEARONOT in Hebrew 18 Nov 93 pp 1, 15

[Report from Paris by Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Excerpt] Immediately after it takes control of the area, the PLO intends to build a fence around Jericho to underscore the total separation from Israel and to give the area the characteristics of a separate state. This was learned yesterday from Palestinian sources in Paris.

Israeli sources attending the economic talks in Paris said that, at least initially, Israel would object to such a move. However, due to security reasons, Israel itself plans to build a fence around Gaza after the withdrawal.

At the same time, members of the Palestinian economic delegation told Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat when they met in Paris that the heads of the Israeli and Palestinian delegations to the Cairo talks have been contemplating the possible relocation of the talks from Cairo to Paris or another European capital due to the fact that the Egyptians listen to the deliberations through concealed microphones they have planted in the rooms where the talks are being held. [passage omitted]

[A report by Eldad Beck in Cairo on page 6 of Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 18 November notes that "the negotiations between Israel and the PLO on the arrangements for a withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho and the transfer of authority to the Palestinians will henceforth take place only in Cairo and will be conducted by small committees."]

Sources Cited on Jordanian-Israeli Economic Agreement

NC1711165193 Bahrain Future Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Hasan al-Huwaytu report from Paris]

[Text] Sources of the Palestinian delegation to the meetings of the joint Palestinian-Israeli Economic Committee disclose that Jordan has signed an economic agreement with Israel. The sources told Future Television that the Israeli delegation informed the Palestinian delegation of the text of the agreement, which includes items related to the occupied territories. The sources added: When we see things that concern a third party during our negotiations with the Israelis, we discuss them with that party.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Abu-Ghawsh, head of the PLO Economic Department's international relations, announced that the PLO is only working for the establishment of the Palestinian state. It is building its national institutions and is not thinking about others, he said. The method of building and developing a Palestinian national economy concerns the Palestinians alone, he added.

Abu-Ghawsh, who was answering a question by Future Television about Jordanian-Palestinian differences over the economic portion of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, said such matters are not raised through the media, but through direct discussions, where criticism can be leveled.

Delegates Comment on Environment Committee Meeting

NC1711125693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1112 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Ambassador Hasan al-Islambuli, director of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Affairs Department and head of Egypt's delegation to the Environment Committee of the Middle East

multilateral negotiations, has affirmed that Egypt is determined to raise the issue of pollution sources at the environment talks, particularly the pollution caused by nuclear waste.

Ambassador al-Islambuli held a joint news conference late last night with the delegation heads of the two countries sponsoring the peace conference—the United States and Russia—and the head of the Japanese delegation. Japan is sponsoring the environment group's work.

She said Egypt has focused light on nuclear pollution and on the need for all the region's countries to cooperate.

Israel, the United States, and Russia objected to the Egyptian proposal to place pollution caused by nuclear waste on the agenda of the environment working group and requested that the issue be referred to the Arms Control Committee.

In light of Egypt's insistence on its position and the Arab countries' support for the Egyptian stance, the committee decided to refer the issue to the advisory committee that supervises the multilateral negotiations' five groups. [passage omitted]

The head of the U.S. delegation said the participating delegations have agreed to set up emergency centers at the Gulf of Aqaba to combat environment pollution and desertification in the region. He added that the World Bank and Japan showed a readiness to contribute to these projects.

The head of the Japanese delegation said his country allocated $5.30,000 for the purpose. [passage omitted]

The head of the Japanese delegation—Japan chairs the environment working group—added that the Palestinian and Israeli delegations agreed to set up administrative structures to deal with environmental affairs in the occupied territories. He noted that the formation of such structures is stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles signed in Washington on 13 September.

He said the participating delegations discussed a proposal to hold another meeting in Cairo to address the aspects of what is called the constitution on dealing with environmental issues. He added that proposals were put forward to set up a data bank in the Gaza Strip to help exchange information with environment centers and other proposals to set up an emergency center to combat pollution in Aqaba. He noted that Italy proposed a seminar on solid waste in the region and means to combat pollution. [passage omitted]

Ambassador al-Islambuli said Egypt is committed to continuous work and cooperation with all the parties to the peace process and that this commitment is very clear on every track of the negotiations.

She said Egypt could raise the issue of dealing with marine pollution in the East Mediterranean, an issue supported by the EC, which proposed projects in this respect and showed a willingness to finance them.

On Syria and Lebanon's boycott of the multilateral talks, the head of the Russian delegation expressed the hope that the two countries would join the talks soon.

Commenting on this point, the head of the U.S. delegation said he believes that the multilateral talks complement what takes place on bilateral tracks and expressed the hope that Syria and Lebanon will soon join these negotiations.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraqi Envoy Meets al-Majid, Calls For Lifting Siege

NC1711200393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today received Dr. Nabil Nijm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League, who handed him a message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf.

Following the meeting, Dr. Nijm said that the message deals with the siege imposed on Iraq, especially the Iraqi funds frozen in some Arab countries, which is one of the issues impeding the move to a new page in Arab relations. He added that the Security Council resolution permits all countries that are freezing Iraqi funds to release these funds for the purchase of medicine and foods and other basic needs of the Iraqi citizen. He stressed that Iraq has fulfilled all its commitments to Resolution 687.

The Iraqi envoy called on the parties that control the Security Council to fulfill their commitments to Iraq, adding that the issue is a purely political one and has nothing to do with the resolution. He called for the full lifting of the siege imposed on Iraq and the implementation of this resolution.

He noted that the issue of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq is almost over according to the official documents and the statements made by the inspection teams, adding that whatever is left of these weapons is under the full control of these teams. He said that Iraq is not a threat to any party in the region but is itself subjected to daily and constant aggression. He added that the allegations against Iraq only aim to maintain the siege using any pretext.

The Iraqi envoy to the Arab League stressed that pan-Arab security is an Arab affair. He called for leaving behind the events of past and for looking to the present and future objectively and seriously in order to protect pan-Arab interests. He said: We are seeking to create a new situation of Arab solidarity in the new inter-Arab relations.

On the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners and missing persons, he said that there are missing Kuwaitis and also thousands of missing Iraqis. He added: The Red Cross has handed Iraq the individual files of the missing. We are checking any information about any file given to us and we will notify the Arab League and the Red Cross whenever we get any information. He stressed that the prisoners, who number more than 6,340, were released during the first months after the cease-fire.

He stressed that his country backs Arab reconciliation and any effort that protects the nation's dignity and security and is against interference in the internal affairs, sovereignty, and independence of any country.

Arab League Chief on Arab-Israeli Cooperation

NC1811075493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has affirmed that ending the Arab boycott of Israel depends upon it withdrawing from all the occupied Arab territories and implementing all pertinent UN resolutions.

In an interview with today's AL-AHRAM, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: We must not be worried about the Middle East common market issue; it cannot be imposed on the Arab sides. He noted that the Arab countries' relations with Israel, if a just and lasting peace is achieved, would be similar to relations with the other countries that respect the will of each Arab state.

Touching on Arab-Israeli economic cooperation, the Arab League secretary general said he has assigned a group of specialized researchers in economic affairs to study the subject at a League research institute. The group has also been asked to prepare a comprehensive study of the breadth of cooperation and its effects on the Arab world, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid added. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Memorandum Criticizes PLO Leadership Performance

JN1811122193 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Nov 93 p 35

["Text" of memorandum "signed by a number of Palestinian figures inside and outside the occupied territories and presented to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Sulayman al-Najjab, member of the PLO Executive Committee at his Tunis headquarters," date not given]

[Text] Mr. President of Palestine and Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee; Members of the PLO Executive Committee:

Greetings from Palestine:

Since the signing of the Declaration of Principles and the mutual recognition agreement between the PLO and the Israeli Government, the Palestinian people, together with their national forces, have been facing a new situation that has imposed new challenges. This is because the Declaration of Principles is an event that separates a militant stage, which aimed at underscoring Palestinian presence on the political map of the region and the world, from another militant stage that moves toward a greater and more advanced achievement; namely, the setting up of an independent Palestinian state on the land of Palestine by Palestinian hands.

Your Excellency the President: We assume that our Palestinian people, together with their national forces, have studied the agreement in terms of preambles, texts, and prospects as the various national institutions did in order to endorse it constitutionally through the PLO Executive Committee and the PLO Central Council. However, the agreement has produced an opposition that has different principles and objectives. And this is natural in an arena which pioneered the entrenching of democratic dialogue and relations among its forces as the only way to govern national life in the various fields.

The signatories to this memorandum believe that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is a decisive political event which should be dealt with in a positive and responsible way in order to develop what is positive in it and besiege what is negative.

In light of all this, we declare:

First, our total affiliation with our people's potentials to build our new entity on the ground;

Second, our commitment to the PLO and its legitimate institutions as the sole representative of the Palestinian people and the national framework to which there is no alternative in order to organize and lead the national potentials toward achieving all the national legitimate objectives of the Palestinian people.

Proceeding from this, and in order to benefit from our democratic right of taking the initiative to propose ideas and procedures which are important and vital in this qualitative stage of our national struggle, we reiterate the following:

First: We are not satisfied with the political leadership's method of work in this stage, either in terms of running the difficult and delicate negotiations with the Israeli side or in terms of the preparations to embark on the stage of national construction in the interim period. It is obvious to everybody that the political leadership is practicing its role in a manner that is close to improvisation and without prior preparation for the necessary practical steps toward embodying the national interests through a planned implementation of our obligations to what was signed.

Second: The political leadership has not made sufficient effort to invigorate the required national dialogue whether on the level of the national forces, which adopted the agreement as an opportunity that would provide serious possibilities to proceed toward our

national objectives, or on the level of the principled opposition to the agreement. Our national traditions require that we expeditiously launch such dialogue and work seriously to render it a success. The objective is to create a reasonable level of national harmony that will entrench Palestinian national security and create a healthy atmosphere for further mobilization toward the new tasks of the Palestinian people.

Third: The political leadership failed to present the agreement in an objective way to the Palestinian people so that this people would be aware of the prospects and potentials of their present and future moves. Consequently, this increased the confusion, ambiguity, and concern, particularly when the Palestinian people receive various and contradictory interpretations, not only on the level of the PLO and Israel, but also within the PLO itself.

Fourth: If we return to the statements and comments of the majority who voted, during the recent meeting of the PLO Central Council, in favor of the Declaration of Principles agreement, we will find that their support was on condition that the leadership performance will develop, Palestinian potentials will be mobilized, Palestinian skills and expertise will be exploited in the best way possible, and that the peace process will be dealt with as a militant process, not an administrative or bureaucratic one. As many of the PLO Central Council members said, whether the result of the Declaration of Principles agreement will be good or bad for the Palestinian people, and whether it will pave the way for national independence and an independent state, or whether it will consecrate the occupation, this result will be basically decided through the materialization of the previous conditions.

While we present these general remarks as a first step, we ask the political leadership to shoulder its responsibilities in dealing with the negative aspects in a manner that guarantees a balanced, viable, and responsible performance during the next stage.

Based on this, we present the following urgent demands.

1. The political leadership should set up specialized councils in all fields of political action, whether on the level of building the new entity or on the level of organizing moves in the Arab and international arenas.

2. The political leadership should appeal to all specialists in various sectors to join these councils and their working groups, whether through planning or implementation. In order to regulate this great process, a department should be set up in the PLO assigned with following up this issue and working out the appropriate action frameworks.

3. Adopting the principle of professional and political efficiency in forming the working groups, establishments, negotiating committees, and other bodies, and abandoning the fractional mentality and appeasement at the expense of efficiency.

4. Working out an integrated negotiating plan that is based on the Declaration of Principles and that ensures integration and harmony of the working groups and the various negotiating teams.

5. Forming a mini-leadership team to lead the entire negotiating process, supervise and follow it up, and coordinate between the various committees and groups.

6. Forming the Palestinian Development and Reconstruction Council according to certain specifications that ensure sound performance, planning, follow up and monitoring, and the credibility of our people with the donor countries and in order to develop the infrastructure of our national economy. Any delay in the formation of this council will waste more time and weaken the credibility of the Palestinians with the international parties that assist our people.

7. Completing the work of the Legal Committee assigned with drafting the bylaw of the Palestinian national authority (the constitutional document) in a manner that emphasizes its democratic nature and commitment to all principles contained in the Palestinian Declaration of Principles. This constitutional document should then be presented for broad deliberations by the Palestinian people as soon as possible.

8. The political leadership should immediately form a higher leadership authority that will start a national dialogue and work for the continuation and success of this dialogue. The political leadership should benefit from its previous mistakes in this respect, since the committees that used to be formed did not work with sufficient seriousness.

9. Setting up a higher planning, consulting, and guidance authority of experts that operates alongside the Executive Committee and assists it in carrying out its major tasks in this stage.

While making such a proposal, we are not undermining the role and jurisdiction of the first executive authority. We present these proposals because we know how this authority has been adversely affected by the resignation of some of its members and the possibility that others may resign or freeze their membership.

We do not accept that the crucial decisions become subject to such a negative situation, and at the same time, we do not propose anything that will harm the constitutional or practical status of this authority.

We present this memorandum that includes general remarks about what we see as essential deficiencies in the performance of the leadership on several levels. These remarks include initial ideas which we believe will objectively remedy this deficiency.

We, the signatories of this memorandum, declare that we have formed a committee to follow up implementation of these ideas and to work relentlessly and patiently to implement them.

The signatories: Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Bashir al-Barghuthi, Ibrahim Abu-'Ayyash, Dr. Anis Fawzi al-Qasim, Tawfiq Abu-Bakr, Dr. Taysir 'Aruri, Sumih 'Abd-al-Fattah, known as Abu-Hisham, Lawyer 'Ali al-Safarini, Fayzal Hurani, Lawyer Muhammad 'Ayyash Milham, Nabil 'Amr, the Reverend Ibrahim 'Ayyad, Dr. Mundhir Salah, Dr. 'Izz al-Din al-Manasirah, and Ghazi al-Sa'di.

Article Analyzes Strength of 'Reformist Movement'

JN1811095393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18-19 Nov 93 pp 1,5

["Analysis" by Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Even though a petition demanding immediate reforms within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has not yet enlisted broad signatures, the movement for change is picking up serious momentum among Palestinians from all shades of the political spectrum, according to Palestinian officials.

The petition that is being circulated in Jordan and the Israeli-occupied territories was sent to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on Tuesday [16 November]. There was no immediate response from Tunis on the document that strongly criticises Mr. 'Arafat's singlehanded approach in handling Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

However, Palestinian politicians, including those who have signed the petition as well as those who refrained from endorsing it, agree that a protest reformist movement has begun and that Mr. 'Arafat cannot afford to continue ignoring discontent among Palestinians in the diaspora and the occupied territories.

The reformist movement, judging by interviews with PLO officials, still lacks unity over means to enforce change. Advocates of the petition as a catalyst for a popular protest movement argue that building up pressure on Mr. 'Arafat would eventually work—because he could find himself alone. But others fear the the publicised move will backfire, enabling the PLO leader to marginalise the "opposition."

Many draw on what they describe as Mr. 'Arafat's past success in co-opting reformists through appointments or his skill in discrediting critics by claiming privately or publicly that they are backed if not incited by Arab governments.

This time, however, Mr. 'Arafat's tactics are not expected to have the same effect or success not only because of the nature of the advocates' identity, but also because of a growing conviction that Mr. 'Arafat's one-man rule could lead to a disaster for the Palestinian people—especially when the implementation of the Palestinian autonomy plan starts.

There is no doubt that Mr. 'Arafat has started feeling the heat. The Fatah Revolutionary Council has last week issued a communique clearly demanding that the future Palestinian entity be based on pluralism, respect for human rights, and legislation that guarantees equal rights for women.

The council's statement, however, could be meaningless if Mr. 'Arafat does not abandon his individualistic approach, observers say. Mr. 'Arafat could even use the Fatah communique to defuse the growing discontent and more significantly to guarantee that his Fatah Movement will not join the protest.

Although many Fatah members strongly support reforms, there are three important factors that could contain dissent within its ranks—at least in the short term:

—First, many reformists inside Fatah still believe that the movement should get the lion's share in any immediate or future appointments. Mr. 'Arafat, who is acutely aware of this factor, is expected to fully use it to keep Fatah behind him to counter other groups.

—Second, there is a trend within Fatah that strongly believes fundamental reforms could only be seriously introduced once the leadership moves to Jericho or Gaza.

"'Arafat can easily ignore demands for reforms now but once he moves from his exile to be among his people, the situation will be different. He cannot simply ignore daily pressures from his own people for a different leadership style," said one Fatah official who fully supports the demands for reforms but has not signed the petition.

—Third, many Fatah rank and file seem reluctant to actively endorse and pursue reformist demands for fear of undermining their own positions.

"We have to keep our heads low until the situation changes. We are sure that the situation will be different once the people inside the territories have a bigger say and role," said one Fatah official from the occupied territories.

Other critics of Mr. 'Arafat argue that some Fatah officials are mainly worried that the reformist movement would undermine their privileges, and consequently they are unlikely to seriously get involved in any movement that will shake up the status quo.

So far, two well-placed Fatah officials have signed the petition—Nabil 'Amr, a close aid to Mr. 'Arafat and his former ambassador to Moscow, and Sumih 'Abd al-Fattah, the former PLO ambassador to Prague.

The initiators of the protest petition, namely the Palestine People Party (PPP), are satisfied with the reaction to the demands contained in the memorandum and are by no means discouraged by the fact that it has not so far collected a big number of signatories.

"The process is definitely gaining momentum," said Tayser 'Aruri of the PPP. "We were judging the process by the political weight of the signatories and the broad support for the demands."

Among the major signatories are Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, Bashir al-Barghuthi, PPP secretary general, Anis al-Qasim, a legal expert and advisor to the negotiating team, Father Ibrahim 'Ayad, and PLO Central Council member Ibrahim Abu-'Ayyash.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi's signature is expected to secure wider support for the movement since he has been the most outspoken independent Palestinian leader in the territories who has publicly criticised Mr. 'Arafat's leadership.

The success of the movement will not only hinge on the number of signatories but also on building public proessure on Mr. 'Arafat to yield more powers to his partners and to Palestinian institutions.

According to the signatories, demands for reforms cannot be postponed until the setting up of Palestinian autonomy, as some Fatah officials suggest, since Mr. 'Arafat's leadership style is already having damaging results on the current Israeli-Palestinian negotiations, they say.

Mr. 'Arafat's major allies, including Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh's Palestine Democratic Union (Fida), is equally disgruntled by the way the PLO leader is handling the negotiations.

The signatories say the "smaller group" Israeli-Palestinian meetings in Cairo have practically reduced the negotiating Palestinian team into a very narrow circle of people, provoking suspicions and fears among the most ardent supporters of the peace accord with Israel.

According to Fida officials who had been involved in the Taba talks, democratisation and reforms are crucial for boosting the Palestinian negotiating position. But Fida sources criticise the way the "reformists" have so far proceeded—including the publicising of the petition—prior to the collection of enough signatures and submission to Mr. 'Arafat.

But initiators of the petition counter that Fida should take the initiative and join the movement instead of criticising the way it has been handled.

Other independent Palestinians who refrained from signing the petition expressed fears that the drive will be used by individuals to extract personal gains from Mr. 'Arafat under the banner of political reforms.

This mood, according to the initiators of the drive, is expected to change once the movement proves that it could sustain itself—as they expect.

"This is not a short-term process. We do not expect to reap immediate results, but the process has to continue and to be sustained. This will require long breath and far sightedness," said Mr. 'Aruri.

PFLP Head Hails Syrian Position on Peace Process

JN1711125993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 17 Nov (SANA)—Dr. George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has emphasized that Syria is the strongest power from the political, human, economic, and military points of view, and that Syria has the resources and means that, in the Israeli view, constitute a threat both now and in the future.

In an interview with TISHRIN, Habash hailed the clear Syrian position on the peace process—a position that remained firm despite all attempts, pressures, warnings, and temptations, and despite all mediations that are assuming the role of broker and marketing the Israeli-U.S. terms.

Dr. Habash valued the Syrian position on the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and expressed appreciation for Syria's rejection of all pressures employed by the United States to force it to adopt practical measures against the presence and activities of the 10 Palestinian factions opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement of liquidation.

He said that the Middle East order is part of a new colonialist order aimed to strike at Arab unity and impose Israel as a hegemonic power in the region. He added that the Zionist plan has been boosted by the signing of the humiliating bilateral agreements, therefore, Israel is now seeking a similar agreement on the Syrian-Lebanese front, and this is what Syria clearly and firmly rejects.

At the end of his interview, Habash called for implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy against Israel, and for continuing the mobilization of the Arab masses as the best and shortest means to reach the aspired results from the peace process.

PFLP-GC's Ahmad Jibril: Intifadah 'Escalating'

JN1711185693 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] In an interview with the U.S. television network CNN, Ahmad Jibril, the secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], said that Yasir 'Arafat and the terrorist Rabin have failed to stop the intifadah and that the intifadah is escalating.

Ahmad Jibril also said that important sectors of our people inside the occupied territories have begun to discover that the agreement that 'Arafat has reached with the terrorist Rabin is harmful to the Palestinian people. This sector, he added, began to support the position of the Palestinian forces that reject this agreement.

Answering a question from the correspondent of the U.S. television network, Ahmad Jibril said: We know that

'Arafat will go to Gaza and Jericho to kill, beat up, and imprison those who reject his agreement with Rabin. We will not start fighting them. We will fight the Zionists.

Islamic Jihad Claims Killing Soldier in Gaza

JN1811102693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] In a statement issued in Amman today, the Islamic Jihad Organization in the occupied territories claimed responsibility for killing an Israeli officer and injuring another soldier in the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday.

Fatah: al-Shabibah Leaflet Work of Single Group

TA1711191993 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Fatah sources this evening argue that the leaflet signed by the al-Shabibah youth movement and distributed in Ramallah and which called for attacking settlers and sending the peace agreement to hell reflects the position of one Fatah group in the territories which is opposed to the agreement. Nevertheless, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi would not voice her reservations about the leaflet, noting that it reflects the mood that has set in among Palestinians due to the actions of the settlers.

'Ashrawi: Leaflet 'Emotional Reaction'

JN1811165193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1556 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has urged the population of the territories to demonstrate patience. She said the leaflet issued in Ramallah yesterday was an emotional reaction that should not be viewed as one that reflects an official political position.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording] To the best of my knowledge, the PLO is committed to the agreement. We do not know who distributed this leaflet. This leaflet reflects an angry and emotional reaction to what has happened. We should remember that the Palestinian public has reacted in an extremely negative manner. This has created true doubts about Israel's intentions and its commitment to the peace process. Hence, we do not believe that this statement reflects an official or carefully-studied political position.

First, as I have already mentioned, the current times are extremely sensitive and serious. Escalation from both sides is expected. We must exercise self-restraint, and work cautiously, carefully, and intelligently. This is because the two sides are committed to the Declaration of Principles. Both sides must prove that they are able to honor their commitments. [end recording]

'Ashrawi Criticizes Israeli Action on Settlers' Riots

TA1811162893 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 Nov 93 p 5

[By Sa idah Hamad]

[Text] Ramallah, QUDS PRESS—Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, has said that while the PLO was subjected to pressure to condemn the murder of the Israeli settler Hayim Mizrahi, "we have not seen anyone condemning the settlers' attacks against unarmed Palestinian residents." 'Ashrawi was specifically referring to the U.S. and Israeli Governments.

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, the Palestinian negotiators' spokesperson described the settlers' attacks against residents in the occupied territories as "very grave." She said: This proves Israel's inability to impose law, order, and control over its settlers.

'Ashrawi criticized the Israeli Government's position, which stresses the need for the Palestinians to remain obligated not to resist the occupation, while the Israeli authorities do not take any measures to stop acts of violence by Israeli citizens. She said: We should not be held accountable as if we are an existing state while the Palestinian people are still under occupation and are being subjected to the Israeli state's violence.

Dr. 'Ashrawi sees the preservation of settlements in the occupied territories as "a danger" for the future of the peace process. She noted that preserving the settlements "does not only constitute a danger for the security of Palestinians, but for the entire peace process."

Replying to a question on the possibility that the current talks between the PLO and Israel might be halted if the wave of violence and attacks by settlers continues, Dr. 'Ashrawi said: "We have asked that the talks be isolated from Israeli practices on the ground, so that Israel will not demand a high political price in exchange for non-negotiable rights, just as happened on the issue of Palestinian prisoners." She noted in this context that the Israeli side is demanding a political price in return for lifting the punitive measures and restrictions imposed on the residents.

'Arafat Pledges Said on 'Collision Course'

JN1711194693 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The destiny of 3 million Palestinian refugees, and that of 2 million Palestinians living under occupation has failed to move the consciences of Clinton and his ally Rabin. The two men do not see any danger in the bloody belligerence of the herds of settlers who have set farms ablaze, killed people, and vandalized cars and property. Yet, Clinton and Rabin left no stone unturned when

Palestinian revolutionaries reacted to the settlers' rampage by the killing of a settler named Hayim Mizrahi. Mizrahi has become the focus of attention in both Washington and Tel Aviv.

Clinton asked 'Arafat to condemn and denounce the killing of Mizrahi. As for Rabin, he made the same request. Shahaq repeated the request, and 'Arafat responded by making apologies, expressing regrets, and denouncing and condemning the killing of settler Mizrahi. Worse still, 'Arafat asked all Palestinians to halt violence to safeguard the Gaza-Jericho accord.

As for the positions of Clinton and Rabin on this issue, we do not find them peculiar. This is because they asked 'Arafat to honor his written pledges, particularly those enshrined in the letters of mutual recognition exchanged on 9 September 1993. For, in his letter to Rabin, 'Arafat vowed to renounce terrorism and to be held accountable for the activities of all PLO elements and cadres. He also pledged to forestall violations and take disciplinary measures against violators.

At present, resistance bullets are running on a collision course with the pledges made to halt resistance. Thus, the picture of the near future is becoming clearer. As for the two parties to the Gaza-Jericho accord, they feel that their impasse and destiny is common. For, the accord is binding on no one other than those who signed it. As for the Palestinian people, they have persisted with their strikes, statements, demonstrations, and military activity. They have continued with their revolution and intifadah. Besides, 'Arafat has failed to make even the Fatah Movement, which he leads, honor his pledges, particularly since the Mizrahi killers were five Fatah revolutionaries who have received orders to observe a cease-fire.

The majority of the Palestinian people and the majority of their fighters and strugglers are opposed to the accord. How then can pledges be honored? Rabin has threatened to scuttle the accord. However, instead of doing so, he will seek to expedite its implementation so that he may accelerate confrontations between the [words indistinct] and those who made the pledges.

'Abbas Denies 'Secret Appendixes' to Israel-PLO Deal

PM1811150493 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 14 Nov 93 p 11

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, by Khalid Muhammad Ghazi; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ghazi] A great deal has been said about the the Gaza-Jericho agreement, including that you were behind Palestinian Yasir 'Arafat's decision concerning this agreement. What is your opinion?

['Abbas] I personally did not take part in the secret negotiations held in Oslo, Norway. I met Peres for the first time in Washington. These secret contacts began between the PLO leadership and Israel before the Madrid conference. Then the secret meeting with the Israelis took place in 1987 between Sari Nusaybah and Moshe Omerat. The director of Shamir's office took part in the these contacts.

The secret negotiations lasted three months in 1987. We were supposed to meet with Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in Geneva in September, but the negotiations failed. Then came the multilateral negotiations, so we held negotiations with the Israelis. These negotiations were characterized by seriousness and importance. They led to the recent secret negotiations in the Norwegian capital which resulted in the Gaza-Jericho agreement. [passage omitted]

[Ghazi] There have been a lot of reports of the existence of secret appendixes which have not been revealed. What is your opinion?

['Abbas] I confirm to you openly that there are no appendixes or arrangements between Israel and the PLO which have not been revealed. Those reports do not deserve to be replied to, because they are untrue and absolutely baseless. [passage omitted]

[Ghazi] Do you believe that what you have achieved is a real gain for the Palestinian cause?

['Abbas] The agreement consolidates all our rights. It provides the elements specified by international law for the establishment of a Palestinian state, that is the people, territory, and the authority. Thus it is a step toward meeting all Palestinian national demands. And I say openly that when the secret negotiations began in Oslo, none of us had thought that the matter would reach the point of an Israeli withdrawal. But we raised the issue for discussion and negotiation, and an agreement was reached on withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. In fact the matter developed into mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel—which I consider a serious and important shift in the policy of Israel, which used to refuse even to mention the PLO's name. [passage omitted]

[Ghazi] But many crucial issues in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict have not yet been settled, including the Jerusalem issue and the Palestinian refugees issue.

['Abbas] I know that Jerusalem is one of the vital and important issues preoccupying millions of Arabs and Muslims, but it cannot be raised for discussion in the first phase, because that can adversely affect the course of the negotiations with the Israelis. The agreement includes the Jerusalem issue through the participation of its residents in all stages of the elections, that is running in the elections and voting—which means that Jerusalem and its people are included in the solution. Besides, the mere inclusion of Jerusalem on the agenda of the final phase is a big gain for the negotiations and a step toward resolving the Jerusalem issue. Especially as the Knesset had decided to annex it and considered negotiation over it to be a violation of the red lines. But raising it in the negotiations now means the possibility of talking about

it—which is the main demand by us all. Thus Resolution 242, which stipulates the impermissibility of occupying others' territories by force—and Jerusalem is one of the territories occupied in 1967—can be implemented So it has to be included in the solution after the negotiations.

As for the refugee issue, it was discussed in the Oslo negotiations. However, I believe that there is no disagreement over the refugees' return, because there is international unanimity over the only UN resolution concerning them, which is Resolution 194. It stipulates the need for the Palestinian refugees to return, and Israel cannot deny it. Rabin now differentiates between political and security settlements—which is also an important development in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. But he must realize that a security solution cannot be achieved through occupation, but, rather, peaceful coexistence. [passage omitted]

'Abbas: Talks Results More Important Than Timetables

JN1711204393 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Brother Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] has said that it is more important for the PLO to achieve positive results at the Taba negotiations, even if there is a delay in the date of the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, set for 13 December, than to stick to dates and consequently fail to get what we want.

In press statements published in Doha yesterday, brother Abu-Mazin added: If the Palestinian and Israeli sides manage to arrive at satisfactory results at the set time, I believe that there will be respect for dates. He said that, according to the set dates, Israeli withdrawal should begin next month and end four months later. Three months later, the elections will be held.

Brother Abu-Mazin indicated that the Taba talks have achieved some progress and understanding on a number of outstanding issues. He added that there are many issues that need to be discussed, such as control and manning of the crossing points and defining the Jericho area.

Brother Abu-Mazin called on the Israeli entity to take measures on the ground to prevent the settlers from controlling life in the occupied territories. He said that those settlers obstruct the peace process.

Al-Husayni Discusses Israeli Approach to Talks

NC1811085893 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Telephone interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian Advisory Committee to the Arab-Israeli talks, in Jerusalem, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] How do you assess the Palestinian-Israeli talks on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement?

[Al-Husayni] We are not pleased with the Israeli attitude to the talks. The Israelis are still proposing outdated ideas, which have been superseded by the Declaration of Principles. The Israeli negotiating team is procrastinating and presenting extreme positions to score a point here or there. This is far from the spirit of the peace process. What the Israelis should do is act in accordance with the Declaration of Principles. They should focus on the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, rather than try—as they have done—to restructure [i'adat tanzim] the occupation.

[Al-Jundi] Don't you think that this is a mere negotiating tactic by the Israelis?

[Al-Husayni] Look, the negotiations should start where we left off, not from scratch. The Israelis should not be arguing that the Jericho area means Jericho city. If we want this to be so... [pauses] This topic was settled in earlier negotiations, which agreed that we are dealing with the Jericho area, not Jericho city.

[Al-Jundi] You mean the Jericho district [qada' ariha]?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, of course. We are discussing a region of over 370,000 [square] km. The Israelis are trying to restrict the talks to Jericho city. If the Israelis want to negotiate in earnest, they should discuss Jericho, the Jericho district, and the al-Ghawr district [qada' al-ghawr] This is what we should be discussing. We cannot negotiate as if only Jericho city is involved. This is an issue we settled in Oslo. We are dealing with Jericho the region, not the city.

[Al-Jundi] Do the negotiations between you and the Israeli side focus mainly on land?

[Al-Husayni] The negotiations deal with issues other than the land. We seek, through these negotiations, to end some of the abnormal conditions that exist now. One concerns the thousands of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails and another the actions of the settlers. A third issue is that of the orders issued to the Israeli army. It seems that soldiers shoot to kill instead of firing warning shots. All these issues are part of the talks. Were Israel committed to the spirit of the peace talks, we would not need to discuss these issues.

[Al-Jundi] The issue of Jerusalem has been assigned to the final phase of the talks. Meanwhile, Likud member Ehud Olmert has been elected mayor of Jerusalem. Do these developments suggest the Jerusalem issue is facing a red line.

[Al-Husayni] Let us first address the first part of the question—postponing the Jerusalem issue. It has not been postponed. Jerusalem is part of the negotiating process. I have been chosen for the Palestinian side and Minister Moshe Shahal has been chosen for the Israeli side to negotiate issues concerning Jerusalem. Postponed

are those issues concerning sovereignty and borders. These issues have been assigned to the second phase of the talks, which should begin as soon as possible and not later than the beginning of the third year.

[Al-Jundi] So, sovereignty is the main subject?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. The issue now is everything concerning Jerusalem: conditions in Jerusalem, construction, reuniting families, the property of absentee owners, taxes, and everything that concerns Jerusalem, the Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem, and Jerusalem's relations with the West Bank and the other areas. These can all be discussed right now. This is what we are doing. This is what we seek. Jerusalem should not be ignored in the coming phase, because the Israeli changes [there], if left to take their course, can turn the Jerusalem issue into an Israeli fait accompli.

[Al-Jundi] When will you start these meetings with the Israelis?

[Al-Husayni] The meetings have begun. Three meetings have already been held. The fourth meeting will be held next week. We are awaiting this meeting next week; we have a long agenda that includes the points I have just mentioned. Olmert may take particular steps in line with his interpretation of the Likud ideology, but eventually these disputed resolutions concern the government's policy, not the mayor's office.

[Al-Jundi] Olmert announced that he opposes partitioning Jerusalem and asserted that a united Jerusalem will remain Israel's united capital and that he will seek to establish more settlements in the Jerusalem area, which will affect the city's future.

[Al-Husayni] This is his personal view. If the government maintains that the Jerusalem issue must be discussed later and if negotiations continue with Israeli Government representative Shahal, the Jerusalem mayorship cannot take such steps. We will take care to adhere to this position and to stop any step taken in Jerusalem that opposes our position.

[Al-Jundi] Al-Husayni, the Israeli withdrawal form Gaza and Jericho will begin on 13 December. In light of obstacles arising during the peace talks, can we say this date will not change?

[Al-Husayni] I believe the beginning should not be marred by delays. Israeli withdrawal must take place on time and the Israelis must adjust to the new realities and change their conduct. If we reach that date and the Israelis are still not prepared to withdraw, we will consider this a stark violation of the declaration of principles.

[Al-Jundi] Faysal al-Husayni, thank you.

'Arafat: Day of Deliverance 'Imminent' in Jerusalem

LD1711193693 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has saluted thousands of Palestinian citizens who are celebrating the anniversary of the Palestinian independence declaration in Bayt Sahur in the occupied Palestinian West Bank. President Abu-'Ammar made an important speech by telephone to which the people celebrating this national occasion listened, amid slogans for the long life of the president and slogans of defiance to build the Palestinian dream.

Brother Abu-'Ammar said: Soon we will raise the flag of Palestine over the liberated Palestinian land. He added: We are waging a bitter struggle to fulfill the Palestinian dream and establish Palestinian independence and authority on the liberated Palestinian land. He stressed that the day of deliverance is imminent when we raise the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem's minarets, churches,and walls, the capital of our Palestinian state for ever. [passage omitted]

President Abu-'Ammar stressed the need for strengthening and deepening national unity, regarding this as a protective shield for independence, freedom, and sovereignty in the homeland and for the homeland's sake.

Abu-'Ammar talked about the dimensions and implications of the Israeli withdrawal, which is the fruit of our people's struggle and sacrifices. It is also the fruit of the revolution and the intifadah, which culminated in an agreement of freedom for the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Brother President Abu-'Ammar addressed the sons of our people saying: Roll up your sleeves to build the Palestinian edifice that you are dreaming of and the homeland, the state of giants, where Palestinian men and women exercise the right of equality and freedom; the edifice of humanity, science, civilization, and creative culture.

What is happening now, the brother president said, following the signing of the accord is an affirmation of the Palestinian people over their sacred land and on the political and geographical map of this new international order.

PLO To Establish Development Bank in Territories

JN1811102193 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Nov 93 pp 1, 22

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee has decided to establish a bank in occupied Palestine under the name of the Development and Construction Bank, which will

receive funds from donor states and international establishments in accordance with an agreement between the PLO and the World Bank.

The bank will be responsible for supervising economic feasibility studies for development and infrastructural projects in the Palestinian state.

Informed Palestinian sources told AL-DUSTUR that all activities of the Development and Construction Bank, which will open branches in Jericho and the Gaza Strip, will be under the supervision of the World Bank, which will prepare tenders, award contracts, and supervise their implementation in cooperation with the PLO.

These sources said Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will personally chair the Palestinian bank's board, which will group Palestinian businessmen and financiers.

The sources expect that the Jordanian-Palestinian economic and financial agreement will be signed within the next few days during the expected visit to Jordan by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. The Central Bank of Jordan will be accepted as the agency in charge of finance and currency in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where the Jordanian dinar will be used. At a later stage, branches of Jordanian banks that were closed following the occupation in 1967 will be reopened.

The sources said the Jordanian-Palestinian economic agreement will form the basis of the Jordanian-Palestinian political relations.

Algeria

Hamas Leader Urges End to Violence

LD1811001193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas—has invited all parties on the scene to a truce in order to get out of the current vicious circle of violence.

This emerged during the "Transformations" program of the news section of channel 1. Here is part of this interview:

[Begin recording] [Nahnah] Now there is violence. Resolving the question of violence in these circumstances in our view, at least it is our view and no one is bound by it, means that we should not search now for the causes of violence because the search for the causes of violence will bring us into the story of the chicken and the egg and which comes first.

Now this violence should stop. How? Let every party declare a truce. The authority on its part to declare a halt on storming houses, violations, and opening detention camps and to close these camps in the desert such as in Rikkan [word indistinct] and so on, and the other party ...

[Unidentified reporter, interrupting] Notwithstanding the second party's aggravation of the security situation, in other words creating a no-security situation, prohibiting assassinations?

[Nahnah] Great, the second party involves two sides; A and B. A practicing violence in the assassination of individuals, and B heating the [word indistinct] in order to continue the process. We reject the heating of the [word indistinct], we reject those who practice this operation, and we also reject ...

[Reporter, interrupting] Who is heating the [word indistinct] in your opinion?

[Nahnah] By God, when a political official in this country states that he will not sit down with nor engage in dialogue with those who represent Islam or have an Islamic perception, this is considered an unparalleled political violence, because he who rejects dialogue is either of weak argument, or planted in the country, or he is a traitor to his homeland, its present and future, or he is an agent to a foreign power. Otherwise how could you reject a dialogue with your kinfolk?

We know very well that disputes in the Islamic society, past, present and in the future, might reach the level of fighting, however, Islam never excluded either this or that from the circle of Islam. God, the almighty says: If two parties among the believers fall into a quarrel, make ye peace between them; but if one of them transgresses beyond bounds against the other, then fight ye against the one that transgresses until it complies with the command of God. That means, make peace.

So the issue is one of misunderstanding on the part of one party or another. We should not seek the reason, but we should seek to extinguish the fire. This can only be done as follows:

First, every party should surrender its stubborn adherence to and fanaticism for its own ideas. Now we in our movement do not want to enter into the issue of the project of the Algerian society, whether it is an Islamic project or a national project or [sentence incomplete]. No, what we want now is to get out of the circle of violence. This can be considered a concession.

The second thing is to alleviate the suffering of the people.

The third is for people to put aside their weapons and to apply two values. The first value is tolerance, without tolerance ...

[Reporter, interrupting] Can there be tolerance today after all that has happened?

[Nahnah] Why not? Do we want it to be like the war between Dahis and Al-Ghabra'? Do we want it to be like the very fierce war between the Aws and the Khazraj before Islam? We are Algerians and Muslims. Our traditions, our religion and our patriotism all impose conciliation upon us. [end recording]

Special Court Sentences 10 Fundamentalists to Death

NC1711182693 Paris AFP in English 1613 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Algiers, Nov 16 (AFP)—The Algiers Special Court sentenced 10 Moslem fundamentalists to death Wednesday [17 November] in a trial of 47 suspects accused of murdering six policemen in the Algerian capital.

Eight of those sentenced to death were among nine of the defendants being tried in their absence. The court acquitted 10 of the defendants and sentenced the others to terms ranging between 20 years and 10 months in jail.

The defendants were accused of ambushing a police car in the old Casbah district of Algiers the night a state of emergency was imposed on February 9, 1992, amid escalating violence between Moslem extremists and the security forces.

A month earlier, the army intervened to bring about the cancellation of the second round of general elections the subsequently outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

In a separate case on Tuesday, the same court—sitting in Medea south of Algiers—sentenced to death 37 people, 30 in their absence, for involvement in 21 murders.

Eight others were acquitted by the court, and the remaining 65 defendants in that case were sentenced to prison terms varying from life to three years.

That group were accused of killing five policemen in the Laghout region, and the murders of 16 others including 12 security officials. They were also charged with a sabotage attempt on a Algerian-Italian gas pipeline.

Three Special Courts to try suspected FIS militants waging a guerrilla war against the authorities were set up last February in Algiers, Constantine in the east and Oran in the west of Algeria.

The courts here have handed down 371 death sentences, of which 20 have been carried out, including the executions of seven fundamentalists convicted of killing seven people in a bomb attack on Algiers international airport in August 1992, which left nine people dead and 123 wounded.

Egypt

Israeli Energy Minister Arrives for 2-Day Visit

NC1711135193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal arrived in Cairo at noon today on a two-day visit to Egypt. He is scheduled to hold talks with Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, and with Engineer Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, on the possibilities of strengthening technical cooperation between the two countries in the field of electricity and oil.

On his arrival at Cairo Airport, Shahal said he was pleased to visit Egypt and thanked President Husni Mubarak and Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi for providing him with the opportunity to pay this visit.

He said he will hold talks on energy problems in light of the excellent relations between Egypt and Israel and hoped that cooperation in energy between the two countries will increase.

Dr. al-Banbi, who was at the airport to receive the Israeli minister, said the purpose of the meeting is to propose ideas on cooperation in the field of energy.

Concerning Syria's stand on the peace process, the Israeli minister said that a comprehensive peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved without Syria, but that Israel has some questions on the kind of peace Syria envisions and how it can be achieved.

Commenting on reports about setting up oil pipelines from the Gulf to the Mediterranean ports across Israel, Shahal said many personalities visit Israel and talk about certain projects but there is no serious plan so far.

Gives Mubarak Message From Rabin

NC1811114193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 18 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a verbal message from Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin during his meeting with Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal today. Shahal described his meeting with President Mubarak as good and said they reviewed the political situation in the region and the ongoing peace efforts in the Middle East. After meeting President Mubarak, Shahal said he appreciated Egypt's role and help to advance the peace process. He said he thanked President Mubarak for his efforts and help in pushing the peace process forward and reaching the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Shahal stressed that the Palestinians and Israelis will reach a solution to all security problems between them before 13 December. He said he believed the talks between the two parties are serious. He noted that the talks' atmosphere is appropriate, thanks to the help and advice offered by the Egyptian party. He stressed that both sides know they have no option but peace.

On relations and economic problems between the Palestinians and Israelis, Shahal said these issues will be discussed after 13 December.

Discussing the number of policemen who will be deployed in Gaza and Jericho, Shahal said it will cost a lot to finance the police force. He said he believes the Palestinians want to establish a police force immediately. He said: We want to see a strong Palestinian police force able to maintain security and order in Gaza and Jericho. He added: There are no differences between us over this issue, but there are particular urgent problems that must be solved. We must discuss ways to achieve cooperation between the Israeli and Palestinian police.

Minister Discusses Mideast Market, Water for Israel

NC1711142493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1313 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, has denied reports that there are special plans to provide Israel with Egyptian water or to establish joint projects in Sinai.

In an interview with the weekly AL-MUSAWWAR to be published on 19 November, Dr. Wali noted that the regional options being studied include a canal linking the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, hydroelectric projects, and water desalination projects that will generate approximately 1.5 billion cubic meters of water, which Arab states could use. Dr. Wali added: There are other proposals concerning water that may be discussed once peace is achieved, including a plan to establish a canal between the Red Sea and the Dead Sea, but they are yet to be discussed.

Asked about earlier reports that Turkey would provide Israel with water, Dr. Wali said that this project has been shelved because of its high cost. He added: It was discovered that conveying water from the Ataturk Dam to Israel would take the cost of 1 cubic meter of water to five dollars; it only costs 50 cents for the same amount of water to be produced through water desalination.

Dr. Wali said that in a Middle East market, the member states would complement, rather than compete with, one another. He pointed out that the ground is paved for establishing an economic entity grouping all the region's countries. He noted that the basic factor that could serve as a pillar for any economic grouping in the region is the financial factor, adding that this was the basis of other major economic communities, such as the EC or NAFTA.

On views that a tendency to establish an economic grouping in the region primarily seeks to change the Arab and Islamic identity of the Middle East, the agriculture minister said that the main purpose of such a grouping is to serve the interests of the region's peoples and countries, not to change their identity. Dr. Wali noted that any economic grouping is primarily governed by economic considerations. The best proof of this is that some Arab states have started to contact Israel and one Arab state even wants to provide it with natural gas, he added.

The agriculture minister denied reports that he is about to begin an Arab tour to promote the notion of a Middle East market.

U.S. Aid to Israel Seen Hurting 'Peace Climate'

NC1711221293 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 15 Nov 93 p 8

["Close Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "Israel Cashes the Bonus!!"]

[Text] Amid talk about the all-embracing peace, the early signs of which have started to appear in the region according to many people, Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington and his talks with President Clinton involved a number of surprises that give no indication that the peace climate has started to set in or bear fruit. The opposite is more like it.

Reports and statements indicate that the U.S. Administration has agreed to grant Israel military and economic incentives under the pretext of trying to strengthen Rabin's government at the domestic level and encourage it to reach peace agreements along all the tracks, particularly with Syria. Justifying this, it has been said that President Clinton wants to balance two promises: A promise to Rabin that no pressure would be put on him to accept withdrawal from the Golan Heights until he is ready for it; and, another promise to President Hafiz al-Asad that the Palestinian-Israeli agreement would not be turned into a separate peace.

In return for this, America agreed to take on the cost involved in the redeployment, not the withdrawal, of the Israeli troops in Gaza and Jericho; $250 million. In addition, there is a long list of sophisticated weapons and technology, including "the super computer" and electronic technology and devices to be used for both civilian and military purposes, including those used in developing ballistic missiles and hydrogen and neutron bombs and others. Moreover, the two sides will initiate talks on obtaining the new generation of F-15's, the F-15 E. The ultimate goal behind all this is to maintain Israel's absolute supremacy in the Arab region.

The size of the armaments and the quality of the economic and military assistance President Clinton gave Israel do not suggest that the region is entering a stage of real comprehensive peace as America says. It seems that we will witness a new phase of the arms race or that the American policy is taking suspicious, twisting courses. While seeking to put restrictions on regional arms and blocking many Arab states' access to sophisticated weapons and missiles through countries like China and Korea, the United States is generously flooding Israel with types of technology far more sophisticated than that mastered by all the Arab states together. This kills hopes of providing a favorable climate for peace, stability, cooperation, and coexistence.

It is obvious that Israel's stalling when it comes to making progress along the Syrian track is a deliberate policy aimed at obtaining all this American assistance and the concessions on the one hand and putting pressure on Syria on the other.

Now that Israel has cashed in the bonus, what kind of bonus will the Arab parties get?

U.S. Military Aid to Israel Criticized

NC1711152693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 17 Nov 93

['Atif 'Umar commentary: "When Will the Arms Race in the Middle East Stop?]

[Text] In his speech to the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council, President Mubarak said that the peace agreements—which various international efforts are trying to conclude between Israel and its neighboring countries—will end the state of war between the two sides forever and eliminate 50 odd years of hostility and tension between the two sides. He also said that these agreements are closely linked to the issue of the Arab boycott, which the Arabs imposed on Israel because of the latter's stand on Arab rights in general and the Palestinian people's rights in particular.

While Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has shown a firm commitment to the issue of peace and the issue of historic reconciliation, which he initialed with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on 13 October, the announcement about the volume of U.S. military aid to Israel has raised some doubts about the futility of the

moves toward the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

We do not deny the right of every country in the region to secure its borders against any outside dangers, but we believe that the political stands of any country that commit it to respect the rules of international legitimacy and protect the rights of others are enough to guarantee the security of its borders and the protection of its security and stability. The best example of this is Switzerland, a state in the heart of Europe that has no army to protect its borders. Yet no dangers have threatened it, and it has not been the target of any foreign ambitions. On the contrary, its stability has made it the leading country in the world in attracting international savings and an international center that holds the world's free currencies reserves. Briefly, we can say that moderate and just political stands that are based on respect for the rights of others are the only real guarantee of a country's security and independence.

Hence, the big weapons deals that Israel is seeking from the United States to confirm its military superiority over its neighbors cannot be regarded as a step along the road to achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Peace can be established through a balanced disarmament between the two parties and not through the military superiority that Israel is always trying to underscore and maintain.

As Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said, the multilateral negotiations that are now under way between the Arabs and the Israelis should be the start of the abandonment of the arms race and military superiority and the bolstering of the peace process that all the international forces are seeking to establish in the region since other means have failed to impose stability there. Despite the anxiety that has prevailed in many Arab political circles as a result of the huge weapons deals that Israel has obtained, there is a certain truth that we believe Israel's military and political leaders have not forgotten, namely that the Palestinian children who were throwing stones inside the occupied territories never had military superiority. Yet these children never abandoned their legitimate demands until the international efforts succeeded in bringing about the historic reconciliation between the Israeli and Palestinian sides.

What President Mubarak said in his historic speech to the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council underscores this fact. Stability and peaceful coexistence between the peoples of the region, ending the Arab boycott of Israel, and eliminating all the hatred that has been ingrained in the hearts as a result of the constant conflicts, all of these depend on ending the state of war, concluding peace agreements with all the neighboring Arab countries, and devoting every effort to the development, progress, and prosperity of all the peoples of the region.

Commission Opposes Loan To Buy U.S. Wheat

NC1711210893 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 15 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] The Supply Commodities Commission has asked Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi not to sign new loan contracts with the United States to buy American wheat and wheat flour. In a memorandum to the prime minister, the commission affirmed that it does not need the loan allocated for the purchase of 222,000 tons of wheat at a price of $50 million at three percent interest. The commission explained that it has a surplus of foreign currency and that it can buy wheat at a price $50 less [unit of measurement not specified] than the American.

The People's Assembly's agricultural committee decided to postpone discussion of the loan agreement at the commission's request.

[Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic on 15 November in a report on page 1 and 3 adds: "The People's Assembly Agriculture Committee, in its meeting yesterday presided over by its chairman Engineer Abu-Bakr al-Basil, decided to postpone the approval of a loan agreement for the sale of agricultural commodities signed between Egypt and the United States in the amount of $50 million. The loan is intended to purchase 333,000 [as published] tons of U.S. wheat." The report adds: "The committee members praised the government representative's position and called for withdrawing the loan agreement from the People's Assembly. They said that this is a positive step as part of the Egyptian Government's preparations to face any reduction or suspension of U.S. aid to Egypt."]

Italian Parliamentary Speaker Arrives in Cairo

NC1511193393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Giorgio Napolitano, president of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, arrived in Cairo tonight with a delegation on a three-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur.

During the visit, the Italian delegation will meet Dr. Surur, Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

In an arrival statement, Napolitano expressed his happiness to be in Cairo, pointing out that his talks with Egyptian officials will deal with ways of bolstering bilateral relations. He stressed the importance of Egyptian-Italian cooperation in development and economic fields, praising the Egyptian role in promoting Middle East peace efforts.

Confers With Mubarak

NC1611133593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Giorgio Napolitano, president of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, in the Presidential Palace at noon. People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur and Dr. Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, attended.

Afterward, the Italian speaker said his talks with President Mubarak dealt with relations between Egypt and Italy, significant international issues, the means to promote bilateral cooperation, and the EC's role in solving the area's problems. Napolitano affirmed that Italy and Egypt are required to play an important role, be it within the framework of solving the Middle East problem or in international issues and development issues between the two countries.

He said that during the meeting, President Mubarak explained the problems facing the Middle East peace process and the need for the EC to play an important role in solving them. The Italian speaker said it is wrong for the European countries to minimize their interest in Middle East problems and simply concentrate on their own problems. The European countries should attach the necessary importance to Mediterranean issues, he said.

The Italian speaker said his country supports the Palestinian-Israeli agreement from the economic point of view. He said Italy is helping to build housing units and the infrastructure in Gaza and Jericho in cooperation with the EC states. Italy also participated in the Washington conference on economic aid to the Palestinians, Napolitano added.

The Italian Chamber of Deputies speaker said he hoped his talks in Egypt would promote bilateral cooperation.

Dr. Fathi Surur stressed the importance of the Italian speaker's visit to Egypt for strengthening cooperation among the Mediterranean countries and promoting the strong bilateral ties in the economic and political fields. He noted that the visit follows profound change in Italian political life, voicing his confidence that the changes aim to create a democratic life with greater representation for the Italian people.

Departs Cairo

NC1711201793 Cairo MENA in English 1815 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, Nov 17 (MENA)—Italian Parliament Speaker Giorgio Napolitano left here for home tonight following a two-day visit to Egypt at the invitation of People's Assembly speaker Dr. Fathi Surur. [passage omitted]

Public Works Cooperation Protocol Signed With Afghanistan

NC1711131693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1056 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Egypt and Afghanistan today signed a protocol defining aspects of cooperation between the two countries in the areas of electricity, public works, and water resources. Engineer Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, and Dr. 'Abd-al-Hadi Radi, minister of public works and water resources, signed the protocol for Egypt. Mohammad Ayub, minister of water and electricity, who is currently visiting Cairo as part of the delegation accompanying Afghan President Rabbani, signed for Afghanistan.

Minister Abazah said that the protocol includes cooperation in the fields of planning, designing, and developing electrical networks, power transformer plants, and power generation plants. He said that the protocol also provides for cooperation in manufacturing electrical equipment, an exchange of visits by experts, and holding training courses in Egyptian electricity authority training centers to train specialized technical cadres to operate and maintain the power plants and power transformer plants in Afghanistan. It also provides for cooperation between the Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources with its Afghan counterparts—departments in building dams and designing, operating, and maintaining an irrigation canal network and in the use of modern methods in Afghanistan.

Burundi Health Minister Departs Cairo

NC1711114093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0902 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Burundi's Health Minister Jean Minani left Cairo for Addis Ababa this morning to attend the OAU ministers' minicouncil meeting to devise a mechanism to end disputes in Africa.

Minani came to Cairo on a visit to Egypt as his government's envoy. During his stay, he was received by President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Muslim Brotherhood Leader in Kafr Arrested

NC1711223493 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 14 Nov 93 p 1

[Text] The High State Security Investigation Agency in Kafr al-Shaykh arrested 'Ali 'Abd-al-Hamid Hamid, leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Kafr al-Shaykh, while he was in possession of a large quantity of instigating leaflets.

Hamid, 24, has delivered lectures and held seminars inciting against the ruling system and calling for changing the social traditions and shaking security and stability.

Islamic Group's Connection With Semiramis Attack Denied

NC1711194893 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 15 Nov 93 p 33

[Text] Safwat 'Abd-al-Ghani, the most prominent terrorist awaiting trial, has denied that the Islamic Group is connected with the recent Semiramis Hotel incident [in which several foreign tourists were killed or wounded on 26 October]. At the same time, 'Abd-al-Ghani said he does not denounce the incident.

Security Chief Notes Flexibility of Plans

NC1711120593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0850 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 Nov (MENA)—Major General Nassar Zahir, assistant interior minister and director of the Public Security Department, has affirmed that the security plans which are being implemented by the Egyptian security services are characterized by flexibility in order to deal with any unexpected developments in dealing with terrorist elements and all kinds of crimes.

In a statement to MENA, Maj. Gen. Zahir said that these security plans are amended according to conditions and developments in the security situation. He noted that the security services have been reinforced with modern apparatus and sophisticated communication equipment to facilitate their work and to establish rapid communication with security departments all over the country. [passage omitted]

Answering a question about Western media reports regarding the violation of human rights in Egyptian prisons, Maj. Gen. Zahir said that such claims are incorrect. The law has given the police the right to defend themselves and the country in the face of criminals. He emphasized that such claims are part of a campaign against Egypt to hamper its pioneering role in the area.

He affirmed that Egypt is a country that enjoys security and stability. Tourists move all over the country, enjoying Egypt's abundant tourist attractions and ancient treasures in complete security and freedom, which probably are not available in many other countries. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister on Support for Security Forces

NC1411115693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has affirmed that the state is providing all the necessary support for the security services to carry out their duty in maintaining security and stability and dealing with terrorist elements that are trying to hamper the development process and disturb security.

Speaking at a meeting of the National Democratic Party's political club last night, the interior minister said that the training programs for all officers and servicemen have been developed to deal with the new challenges they face and to gain the best qualifications and experience. He noted that officers receive periodic training in the various governorates.

Issuance of Automatic Weapons Permits Halted

NC1611145993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Nov (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has decided to stop the issuance of permits for citizens to carry automatic weapons. This step was made in light of the study prepared by the ministry about the weapons currently used by the citizens and the permits issued by the ministry in the past.

Hasan al-Alfi said that he is currently studying the possibility of revoking the permits granted to some citizens to carry automatic weapons, noting that those citizens should not carry weapons in view of their circumstances. He said that those citizens will only be given permits to carry handguns and hunting rifles.

Egypt To Build Power Plant in Gaza

NC1511095993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0917 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Nov (MENA)—Electricity Minister Engineer Mahir Abazah has stated that Egypt will build a 200-megawatt power station in Gaza to provide electricity to the free areas in Gaza and Jericho. In a statement to MENA, Eng. Abazah said that the construction of the new station will be financed with the grants that will be extended to the Palestinians, adding that Egypt will provide the technical assistance and specifications. Eng. Abazah noted that he had met recently in his office with three Palestinian electricity experts from Gaza to discuss details about the new station. He added that the Palestinian experts will make a list of their needs for the new station and send it to Egyptian experts and technicians next month to prepare the necessary designs for the new station.

New Natural Gas Field Found in Mediterranean

NC1711203593 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Nov 93 p 1

[Report by Faruq 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Text] Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi has announced that a new natural gas field was found in the area between Damietta and Alexandria in the Mediterranean sea bed. He added that three sand strata bearing large quantities of gas have been found, noting that the exploration operations in the Mediterranean region are showing constant success and that there is demand from companies to prospect for gas in this region. This, he added, will help increase Egypt's natural gas reserves.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Threatens To Burn Oil Wells

LD1711160293 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Address by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the people of Qasr Bin Ghashir; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] O brothers, in these hours when the imperialist superpowers, who think that they have controlled the world and whose people think that they are able to do so, are getting arrogant, they received an order [words indistinct]. The imperialist states and the states of infringement and arrogance believe that they have controlled the world and that they have frightened people. They think that the way to the world, to all its four corners, has become strewn with flowers in front of their invading hordes. They believe also that people have become listening ears, listening to orders from New York, Paris, and London and obeying orders. We tell them, however, what the masses have said in this arena: To hell with the orders issued from there. The orders are issued from here, from the masses, from the people.

O brothers, in these hours when the superpowers believe that the people have no voice and that the people of the Third World have become submissive, we tell them: Your calculations are wrong; people are rebelling; they did not and will not surrender. Let them hear the voice of the rebelling masses, the masses who say no, the masses who have the right to veto the UN Security Council's false resolutions. This is not the submissive voice of Moscow or any other state that has been given the right of veto falsely and unjustly. Those who have the right of veto are the people and the masses.

Here at Qasr Bin Ghashir, here the right of veto is taken against the UN Security Council's false resolutions. Here we say no, and [passage indistinct] will be nullified. Security Council resolutions are not applicable to the nations which say no. [crowd chants]

Brothers, in these hours when the superpowers are getting arrogant and are afflicted with megalomania and power madness, in these hours these crazy powers must listen and realize there is someone out there who could deter them: the revolutionary nations. Brothers, the confrontation with the Libyan revolutionary people will be a historic juncture in the (?defeat) of haughtiness [words indistinct] as was the confrontation with the people of Vietnam. The people of Vietnam, who issued their orders to America's soldiers not to leave America for a decade [as heard]. Even the Libyan people are capable of teaching a lesson to the forces of aggression and forcing the soldiers of colonialist forces not to leave their borders for another decade, my brothers.

Here confrontation with nations takes place. Here the calculations based on submissive rulers and artifice elected in rigged elections fail. Here, there are no elections or rulers or parties or falsification. Here the people are masters; the land belongs to them, the great man-made river belongs to them, and the future belongs to them. [crowd chants]

Here, the calculations of the superpowers, of the powers of colonialism and arrogance on earth are reviewed. Here, when they are confronted with the Somali people and their valiant resistance, and when they are confronted with the challenges and steadfastness of the great Libyan people, just as they were confronted by the people of Vietnam, and as they are being confronted everywhere with the resistance of peoples, from Cuba to Vietnam. We say to the forces of arrogance: These calls of theirs, the encroachment on peoples, the falsifying of the Security Council, the tarnishing of the United Nations, and the violation of its Charter cannot go unpunished, cannot go without someone saying no. Here the Libyan people are saying no.

The Libyan people do not say this in words only; they say it with their blood, and with their souls. They have said it in the past, and Europe knows the meaning of a clash with the Libyan people. The history of the Vandals, the Spaniards, the horsemen [as heard], the Byzantines, the Romans, the Italians—their histories bear witness to the meaning of a clash with the Libyan people and confrontation with the Libyan people, brothers.

They humiliated the Libyan people when they said: When we threaten oil, the Libyan people will submit and will turn into slaves stooping at the feet of the Western colonial states. They humiliated the Libyan people with these calculations and with this belief. We are ready to march en masse, in our millions, to burn the oil wells, the oil fields, and the harbors, in front of the world. Our oil will not be like that of Kuwait, burned by the invader of Kuwait. We will burn our oil ourselves out of spite and as a defiance, deliberately, and as an act of rejection of the falsification, lies, forgery, encroachment, and arrogance.

They humiliate the Libyan people when they threaten oil and issue false imperialist resolutions in the name of the United Nations. The United Nations, with over 160 member states, did not agree or endorse this, nor did they discuss it. They humiliate the Libyan people and belittle them when they issue false resolutions and come closer and closer to oil in an absurd and blatant attempt to terrorize the Libyan people by saying that forthcoming resolutions will affect oil. This is a humiliation of the Libyan people. The Libyan people, who have lived thousands of years without oil, could never forsake their dignity, freedom, and future for the sake of oil. To hell with oil if oil humiliates the Libyan people. To hell with oil if oil makes us bow to the enemy. We are not among those people who are enslaved by their oil, kneel down because of their oil, and allow their oil to enslave them. Brothers, as I have said, we are ready to go before the world, and in a millions-strong demonstration, transmitted to the world via satellite, set fire to the oil fields and oil wells and destroy oil money. We would carry

rifles, machine guns, projectiles, bombs, and knives and here declare resistance without oil. This is the challenge facing us, brothers. A glorious and eternal hour of defiance is bound to come, an hour that has no equal in the lives of submissive people. This hour will come when we burn the oil and lean against the wall and say to them: We are waiting for you and so are the fish. [crowd chants]

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Ends Visit

LD1711093893 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0823 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tripoli, 17 November (TANJUG)—Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Vladislav Jovanovic today ended his official visit to Libyan Jamahariyah following his meetings with Transport Minister [Secretary of the General People's Committee for Utilities, Tourism, and Communications] Mubarak al-Shamikh and Oil [Energy] Minister 'Abdallah Salim al-Badri.

In their talks, Libyan ministers and Minister Jovanovic comprehensively discussed the state of bilateral economic relations. Readiness was noted on both sides to maintain them even under the current difficult situation in both countries resulting from the sanctions imposed by the international community. The two sides agreed that there existed wide opportunities for improving and diversifying bilateral cooperation once the sanctions are lifted.

In an atmosphere of mutual understanding, the two sides considered a number of topical problems from the sphere of economic relations and the ways of overcoming them.

Minister Jovanovic concluded his visit with a press conference for Libyan media.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Interviewed on Elections, U.S. Criticism

JN1711191293 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1732 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Interview with President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir by Ahmad Birru; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Birru] Your Excellency President 'Umar Hasan al- Bashir: You recently disbanded the military council and installed a new Sudanese Government in advance of holding presidential and legislative elections. When will the elections be held, and will all the forces, including the outlawed traditional parties, be allowed to field candidates?

[Al-Bashir] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. From day one of the revolution, we intimated that we came to hand over power to the Sudanese people. The recent move on the part of the Revolutionary Command Council disbanding itself is a step in this direction. By June, 1994, elected councils will be in place on the provincial level. Subsequently, elections will be held for a national council and to choose a president. The vote will be free and open, but the elections will not be run on party, sectarian, or tribal lines.

[Birru] The new government has come under attack by the Sudanese opposition and charges have been made that it does not include independents, thus confirming the dominant position of the National Islamic Front. What do you think?

[Al-Bashir] As far as we are concerned, the front is just like any of the parties that were dissolved. We have appointed able and competent people to the government posts. The cabinet includes a number of former party members as well as independents.

[Birru] What do you think stands out among your government's achievements since you took office four years ago, and what are your plans for the run up to the presidential and legislative ballot?

[Al-Bashir] We have many successes to our credit. In the security field, it may be said that the northern provinces enjoy complete security. Take Khartoum, northern Sudan, eastern Sudan—the tribal feuds are now behind us, as is banditry in Darfur. The rebellion to the south of the Blue Nile is now finished and restricted to the south of Kurdufan and in southern Sudan. In terms of economic development, with the completion of the three-year development program, we have made strides. In the first year of the program and toward its end, we scored a 3 percent growth rate. In the following year, the development rate hit 11.3 percent and the following year it was 13.1 percent. It is fair to say that production in Sudan has risen. At any rate, the starvation that haunted Sudan in the past is now gone. We are now self-sufficient in sugar, maize, wheat, lintel, and many other goods. I may as well mention other development areas. Work has begun on raising the height of the Rusayrif Dam and digging canals, which will add a million and a half feddan to the agricultural land. Work has also begun on national highways—the al-Tahaddi road that will connect Khartoum and 'Atbarah and Haya; the western Inqadh road that will connect al-Ubayyid, al-Nuhud, and al-Fashir; and the Salum road that will connect [place names indistinct]. Then there are numerous internal roads, like the al-Managil-Shawwar, and the Khashm al-Qirbah-Halfah-al-Sub'at.

Also in the field of services, there has been an expansion in elementary education. Soon, God willing, elementary education will become compulsory for (?most) students. We have carried out a very large campaign against illiteracy. We expect that by the end of next year, God willing, illiteracy in Sudan will be obliterated. There has been expansion in university learning. We have opened 12 new universities. The number of students admitted to universities and higher institutions has risen from 1,500

in the first year of the revolution to 30,000 students. All students abroad, especially in East Europe and the Soviet Union, have been returned.

Health services have been improved. In the field of major projects, we have built airports in Port Sudan, Dunqulah, the al-Fashir. We have expanded the Port Sudan port, the (words indistinct) Sawakin port, and the Syaf port. In fact, there are numerous achievements.

[Birru] Relations between Sudan and the United States are worsening. After the criticisms that were leveled against Sudan on charges of supporting extremist Islamic groups, there came the Washington declaration regarding the unification of the two wings of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Sudan. How do you interpret the U.S. escalation? What are the real reasons behind Washington's criticisms of Sudan?

[Al-Bashir] Of course, all Washington's criticisms of Sudan are ill-intentioned. Charges on human rights violations, support for terrorism, obstructing relief work, and failure to achieve peace are false allegations. The United States knows that. We know that the misunderstanding between us and the United States is for two reasons: The first is the independent Sudanese trend and our decision to be an independent state with independent decisionmaking. This has been proven on many occasions, particularly during the Gulf war and in our position on Somalia and a number of regional and world issues. The second is the Sudanese Government's Islamic orientation, something which the United States does not accept. These, in fact, are our problems with the United States. But as for what the United States is saying and what it intends do regarding us, all this is unfounded. As for the attempt to unify the two wings of the movement, this, in fact, is not aimed at making peace. This is because the statement of the Washington seminar makes it clear in that the first point is the right to self-determination for south Sudan, the Nubah mountains, and neglected [muhammashah] areas. The second point talks about unifying efforts to fight the front's government and any other government that does not approve of the right to self-determination. Therefore, this is an attempt to unify this movement so as to continue the war. This is a call for continuing the war.

[Birru] Islamic shari'a is being implemented in Sudan, and rebellion movements fear the implementation of shari'a all over Sudan. This is why they are calling for the right to self-determination. Some of these movements even call for separation. What is the solution you propose to end this problem?

[Al-Bashir] The truth is that we proposed a compromise solution to the issue of shari'a—the implementation of federal rule and the exclusion of the south from the implementation of shari'a. The current law stipulates nonimplementation of the shari'a penal code in the southern provinces where the majority are non-Muslims. However, the call for self-determination and separation has never been one of the demands of the rebellion movement. The rebellion movement used to call for a unified Sudan and for resolving Sudan's problems within the framework of a unified Sudan. The claims we now hear are dictated to the rebellion movement by some foreign powers that do not want to see an end to this war.

[Birru] Concerning relations between Sudan and several Arab states, particularly Algeria and Egypt, which accuse Sudan of assisting fundamentalists to topple the regime in both countries—what is the truth regarding Sudan's relations with these movements? The border differences between Egypt and Sudan on the Hala'ib region have not been settled despite the formation of a joint committee. What are the obstacles to settling these differences?

[Al-Bashir] Regarding the claims that we support Islamic movements in Egypt and Algeria, we have repeated what the former Egyptian interior minister said, to the effect that he had no information about Sudan's support for these movements. Consequently, we do not support Islamic movements in Egypt. As for Algeria, we do not have joint border with it to support Islamic movements there. They have not furnished any evidence of our support for these movements. It is known that our state is poor and lacks the means of support. We have enough internal problems that prevent us from creating problems for others. In fact, we always call for not interfering in Sudan's internal affairs. Consequently, we cannot interfere in the others' internal affairs. Regarding the Hala'ib issue, in fact, Hala'ib is Sudanese. It has been Sudanese since Sudan was established with its current borders. Sudan's northern border with Egypt was demarcated at the beginning of the joint British-Egyptian rule. The border was demarcated in accordance with an agreement between the British and the Egyptians. We were not a party to this. In accordance with these agreements and their amendments, Hala'ib became part of Sudan. All maps and documents prove that Hala'ib is part of Sudan. The failure to reach a solution is due to the fact that the committee, which was formed after my meeting with President Husni Mubarak, has only met once in Cairo. We are waiting for its meeting in Khartoum to reach a solution to this issue.

[Birru] The Arab-Israeli negotiations have so far resulted in the signing of an agreement between Israel and the PLO. Other agreements are also expected that will lead to Arab recognition of Israel and to establishing relations with it. What is Sudan's stand toward the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, and toward reaching agreements in accordance with which Arab states will recognize Israel and deal with it?

[Al-Bashir] Of course, we support any agreement that would restore to the Palestinians their full rights to self-determination and to establishing their state on their land. We believe that there is no possibility of normalizing relations with Israel before achieving a full withdrawal from all the Arab territories. In any cases, we are not a party to negotiations with Israel.

[Birru] Concerning the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, do you support the PLO's step?

[Al-Bashir] Again, we say that we support any agreement that enables the Palestinians to determine their future and to establish their state on their land.

[Birru] Thank you Mr. President.

[Al-Bashir] Thank you.

President al-Bashir Speaks to Media Leaders

Backs Syria's Stance on Israel

EA1711180693 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has lauded Syria's stand on the Middle East issue. He affirmed in his regular meeting today with the leaders of the information and press media that Syria was today being exposed to big pressures to grant concessions in its stand on the Middle East negotiations and to normalize its relations with the Israeli enemy before total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

His excellency lauded Syria's adherence to international legality and insistence on total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir called for support for the Syrian stand in view of the fact that it represents an Arab stand.

Praises PDF

EA1711172593 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has lauded the great success achieved by al-Damazin province in implementing the program of the universal appeal. He said this important happening, which coincided with the fourth anniversary of the Popular Defense Forces [PDF], confirmed the success of the PDF's program in building a distinguished society.

He stressed that the successful experiment of the universal appeal in al-Damazin province must now be applied in all provinces, particularly inasmuch as this program had evoked an enormous response from the citizens. He directed that the experiment be discussed during the conference of provincial commissioners due to be held in Kutum in Darfur State at the beginning of December.

His Excellency the president of the Republic went on to say during his meeting today with media leaders at the secretariat general of the Council of Ministers that the PDF had become an outstanding school with a pioneering program, having achieved numerous objectives and raised the ordinary citizen's level of consciousness. It had also alerted the citizens to the dangers threatening the country and to the magnitude of the conspiracies and threats we are facing. The PDF had also served to raise morale of the Armed Forces, a factor which produced clear results in the achievement of security and stability in many areas. He said the purpose of the open camps was to create tools with which to transform society. [passage omitted]

Government Invited To Attend Somalia Peace Conference

EA1711172093 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Sudan has received an invitation from the UN deputy secretary genral for humanitarian affairs to attend the international conference on peace in Somalia from 21 to 29 November. Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih, the foreign minister, said in this regard that the invitation proved the soundness of Sudan's stance vis-a-vis the Somali crisis. Speaking from his regular forum at the Foreign Ministry yesterday, his excellency also referred to the meetings of the central organ for resolving disputes in Africa starting today in the Ethiopian capital until 19 November with participation at the foreign ministerial level.

Al-Mahdi Denies Arrest

PM1711165693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Nov 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Al-Mahdi: Ummah Party To Announce Its Position on Demand for Self-Determination Soon"]

[Text] Khartoum, AL-HAYAH—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, former Sudanese prime minister and leader of the opposition Ummah Party, has denied reports of his arrest at the end of last week. He pointed out that he is currently busy studying "new developments on the Sudanese scene," especially the raising of the question of self-determination in the southern Sudan. Al-Mahdi told AL-HAYAH yesterday: "I have over the past few days been busy studying new developments on the Sudanese scene in the wake of the Washington seminar and the raising of the question of self-determination in southern Sudan. We will study all aspects of the matter in order to announce the Ummah Party's position on the issue."

Al-Mahdi stressed that reports of his arrest, which AL-HAYAH obtained form well-informed sources, "are untrue, as I have not been subjected to any arrest or interrogation."

A security official has told AL-HAYAH in Khartoum that the report of al-Mahdi's arrest is untrue. He added: "We have not arrested al-Mahdi, nor do we have any desire to do so." The Sudanese Embassy in London pointed out in a statement a copy of which AL-HAYAH obtained yesterday that the authorities were not aware of any meeting between al-Mahdi and U.S. Ambassador to Khartoum Donald Petterson. "Nor was there any reason for a confrontation between Sudanese security forces

and the unit guarding the U.S. ambassador. In fact Sudanese security forces are performing all their tasks, including protecting foreign ambassadors to Sudan." He denied that al-Mahdi was interrogated recently. The source noted that the Sudanese press has not over the past week referred to any link between the university incidents and al-Mahdi.

Tunisia

Indonesian President Continues Visit; Agreements Signed

Tourism Agreement Signed

BK1711091993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] The Indonesian and Tunisian Governments signed a bilateral cooperation agreement on tourism. The agreement was signed in Tunis on Tuesday by the Indonesian ambassador to Tunisia, Ishar Ibrahim, and Tunisian Director General of Toursim Board [Wahid Ibrahim].

The exchange of information between the two countries is also included in the bilateral cooperation agreement to monitor the inflow of tourists to Indonesia and Tunisia. Apart from this, the two countries also agreed to exchange information in the fields of organizational administration, strategic decision-making, and tourism training.

Indonesia and Tunisia pledged to (?hold) expositions and promotional tourism weeks to further enhance bilateral cooperation. The bilateral cooperation agreement is for a five-year period and could be extended another five years if the countries agree not to annul the agreement.

Suharto Meets 'Arafat

BK1711104693 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0640 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis, Nov. 17 (OANA/ANTARA)—Yasir 'Arafat has asked Indonesia's President Suharto as head of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) to press Israel to seriously implement the peace agreement signed in Washington last September 13.

Minister/State Secretary Murdiono said after President Suharto's meeting with Arafat here on Tuesday [16 November] evening or Wednesdey morning on West Indonesia Time, the request was made because Israel had not fully implemented it.

The implementation of the peace agreement has a lot of difficulties and practically has had no progress. Israel has taken various actions which may be considered away from implementing the agreememt," Murdiono said, quoting the Palestinian president.

President Suharto had listened seriously to Arafat's explanation about recent developments in the handing over of a limited autonomy to the Gaza Strip and Jericho, he said.

Regarding the request, President Suharto had asked him and head of the NAM Executive Committee, Nana Sutresna, to sound out possible measures which may be done by Indonesia, Murdiono said. During the meeting, President Suharto had handed over a U.S.$2 million check, part of the U.S.$5 million Indonesia has pledged to 'Arafat.

'Arafat said earlier Palestina needed U.S.$13 billion to build a variety of facilities, such as, electricity, telecommunications, and educational facilities. 'Arafat said he had already secured a U.S. $2.2-billion pledge from various parties.

"Israel has not been willing to hand over the plan for the full withdrawal of its troops from Jericho and Gaza Strip," Arafat said after the meeting. President Suharto was formerly scheduled to meet him for half an hour but had talked with him for an hour.

Ben Ali, Suharto Hold Further Talks

LD1711194393 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning at Carthage Palace held a second round of talks with Indonesian President Suharto.

The presidency's official spokesman said that the two presidents dealt once more with the relations between Tunisia and Indonesia and the prospects of consolidating bilateral cooperation in light of the results of the talks between the two country's delegations, particularly those connected with intensifying economic and trade exchanges and strengthening consultations for enabling Tunisian-Indonesian cooperation to rise to the level of the distinguished links that bring the two fraternal countries and peoples together.

The official spokesman added that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali also reviewed with his guest current issues, particularly the Middle East peace process, regional developments, and the various efforts to consolidate the chances of peace and stability in the Middle East. In this context, the two presidents discussed the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, affirming the need to enable the Palestinian people to obtain their rights and achieve progress in the peace efforts as a guarantee for a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The official spokesman pointed out that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had also raised with the Indonesian president the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the catastrophes of war to which its people were subjected. The two presidents highlighted the need to continue supporting the efforts of the Islamic Conference Organization and the Nonaligned Movement in contributing to international efforts to save this people from tragedy.

At the level of regional relations, the official spokesman pointed out that the two presidents expressed interest in the cooperation between the Arab Maghreb Union, presided over by Tunisia, and the South-East Asia group, in which Indonesia occupies a prominent position. They stressed the importance of securing the favorable platform for the establishment of cooperation between the two groups, which would contribute toward consolidating Maghreb-Asia relations in the interests of the peoples of the two groups.

The official spokesman pointed out that during this meeting, President Suharto again thanked the head of state for inviting him to visit Tunisia, which enabled him to witness the cultural revival of our country and reforms in various spheres. He affirmed his country's desire to move toward further consolidating its deep-rooted relations with Tunisia and invited His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to visit Indonesia. His Excellency accepted this invitation provided that its date be determined at a later time.

Economic Agreement Signed

LD1711205293 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tunisia and Indonesia today signed an economic cooperation agreement as an embodiment of a joint will to open new horizons in bilateral relations. The agreement covers various economic fields and trade exchanges.

National Economy Minister Sadok Rabah signed the agreement from the Tunisian side and the industry minister from the Indonesian side.

The agreement encourages joint investments in industry in the two countries for the benefit of the two countries' interests and to strengthen the principle of cooperation among the countries of the South.

[Words indistinct] the trade exchanges, it was agreed that the two countries should further increase their efforts to become acquainted with the products and capabilities the other country's market could provide, as well as to coordinate efforts for joint marketing in markets abroad.

South African Foreign Minister Ends Visit

MB1711085393 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0107 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tunis Nov 16 SAPA—Foreign Affairs Minister Pik Botha on Tuesday [16 November] ended his three-day official visit to Tunisia at the invitation of the Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya, a SA [South African] Foreign Ministry statement announced.

During the visit, Mr Botha met Tunisian Prime Minster Dr Hamed Karoui, a number of cabinet ministers and the secretary-general of the ruling RCD [Democratic Constitutional Assembly] party.

The visit was described as being of historic and exploratory nature, which covered various subjects such as tourism, air and sea links, agriculture and the expansion of trade between the two countries.

The statement said permission was given for a large Tunisian business delegation to visit South Africa early next year, and indications were that a similar delegation of South African businessmen would visit Tunisia in May 1994 under the auspices of the South African Chamber of Business.

Mr Botha also extended an invitation to his Tunisian counterpart as well as to the ministers of tourism and transport to visit South Africa at the earliest opportunity.

At the request of the Tunisian foreign minister, Mr Botha paid a courtesy call on Palestine Liberation Organisation's Foreign Minister Faruq Qaddumi, during which Mr Qaddumi updated Mr Botha on the latest developments in the Palestinian/Israeli peace negotiations.

The Tunisian Government also said it would reciprocate a South African decision by granting bona fide South African businessmen and tourists 30-day visas upon arrival in the country, the statement said. It was also decided that diplomatic relations between the two countries at the level of offices of interest would be established.

Foreign Minister Receives Norwegian Counterpart

LD1611203793 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Excerpt] Continuing Tunisia's role in pushing forward the Middle East peace process, Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia held a meeting with his Norwegian counterpart Johan Holst who is visiting Tunisia.

They talked about developments in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Ghannouchi Denies Report of Terrorist Role

PM1811113093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Nov 93 p 4

[Jamal Khashuqji report: "Ghannouchi Intends To Sue British Newspaper Accusing Him of Terrorism"]

[Text] Jeddah—Rashid Ghannouchi, leader of the outlawed Tunisian An-Nahdha movement, has announced that he intends to sue the London newspaper THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH because it accused him of being the "mastermind" behind the explosion which occurred in a hotel in Tunisia in 1987, in which a British tourist was wounded.

Ghannouchi, who lives in Britain as a political refugee, said in a statement to AL-HAYAH over the telephone that what has been published "is mere fabrication." He accused certain quarters of reactivating the case—"which is part of the undeclared war against Islam and

Islamists. It seems it is now Britain's turn after what happened in the United States and France."

Ghannouchi's obtaining the right of political asylum in Britain early in the year angered the Tunisian Government, especially as he had been tried in absentia in his country and sentenced to life imprisonment after being convicted of several charges.

Ghannouchi offered his story of the hotel incident, saying: "The press and the courts dealt with this case, which occurred seven years ago. Clear statements were made in this connection and the file was closed." He added that what refutes the newspaper's claim that he "planned the operation" is that he was arrested seven months before the incident, which occurred in August 1987. He added that the authorities tried at the time to hold his movement—then known as the Islamic Tendency movement—responsible for the incident. But the defendants denied this in court, emphasizing their affiliation to the Islamic Jihad movement, and one of them—Mehrez Boudaka—was executed.

On what THE SUNDAY TELEGRAPH said about his leadership of Islamic extremism in the world together with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front in Sudan, and Dr 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, spiritual leader of the Islamic Group [al-jama'ah al-islamiyah] in Egypt, he said: "I know Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi very well, but I have not met Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman at all, and my methods differ completely from his."

He stressed that his position in Britain is quite normal and that he enjoys freedom of movement. He expressed his hope that "no serious quarter will pay any attention to these trivial accusations, which any judicious person can refute." He wondered: "Who is reactivating this case, in which the file has been closed? Who is instigating the people who were harmed by it? The lady who was harmed most said, as we have read in the press, that she wants to forget what happened. So who is insisting on reminding her?"

GCC Ministerial Council Meets in Riyadh

LD1611200493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1920 gmt 16 Nov 93

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Nov (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, said that during the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ministerial council's 49th preparatory session all political aspects were reviewed, including the Middle East peace process and the problems the region is facing. The meeting also presented a number of specific ideas and recommendations regarding this.

In a statement to the press following the end of the ministerial council's meetings today, his highness made clear that all recommendations from other ministerial councils were reviewed, excluding the outcome of the interior ministers' meetings to be held next week. God willing, this will be reviewed during the Council's meeting on 19 December.

He said: "All these recommendations will be submitted to the meetings of the GCC's leaders in the council's next session in Riyadh."

Further on Session

LD1711132293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1038 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 17 Nov [KUNA]— Diplomatic sources said here today that under secretaries of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] Foreign Ministries will hold a meeting in two weeks to discuss issues connected with the peace process and other related matters. They will submit their ideas to the foreign ministers of the council, who will convene another meeting two days before the summit due to be held here on 20 December.

The sources informed KUNA that the foreign ministers of the GCC states, who held a preparatory meeting for the summit here yesterday, discussed this measure in order to reach a unified stance on the issues connected with the peace talks; that is, the lifting of the Arab embargo on Israel and the multilateral talks which are being held in the region. [passage omitted]

The sources added that during the meeting the member countries stated that the lifting of the embargo is conditional on the complete implementation of the Security Council resolutions. They also declared their stand against Iraq's attempts to fragment Security Council resolutions.

In addition they said that the ministers discussed recent developments in relations with Iran, and that Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi, United Arab Emirates [UAE] foreign minister, told the council about the absence of any progress in the talks between Iran and the UAE on the issue of the islands. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Heir Apparent Comments on Qatari Amir's Visit

JN1811112493 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Excerpts] A session of talks was held in al-Mishrif Palace today between His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the head of state, and his brother His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of the sisterly State of Qatar. [passage omitted]

His Highness Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy chief of staff, has described ties between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Qatar as relations of genuine brotherhood, sincere cooperation, and deep historical ties.

Speaking to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY on the Qatari amir's visit, his highness noted that this visit assumes special importance in terms of its timing, which comes before the upcoming Gulf Cooperation Council summit and in view of the importance of the current phase in which the world and our region are undergoing various changes on all levels. This necessitates coordination and agreement on requirements of joint action, both on the level of bilateral relations as well as issues of common concern that are related to Arab and Islamic existence and mankind in general, his highness added.

His highness praised the brotherly spirit which permeated the official and private talks between UAE President Shaykh Zayid and Qatari Amir Shakh Khalifah. The visit, he said, is within the framework of meetings of brothers in the two countries on all levels to bolster the brotherly ties and strengthen continuous cooperation and consultations in the two people's interests. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Cabinet Holds Extraordinary Session on 'Crisis'

JN1711183893 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting this morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. The council discussed during the meeting [words indistinct] the prime minister and the ministers to the House of Representatives, which held a meeting today to discuss the country's current political situation in order to provide a suitable climate, to continue the dialogue, and to work out a practical remedy for the current crisis.

The council also discussed the efforts of its committee, which held meetings in Aden under the chairmanship of the prime minister and his deputies in order to follow up on the current crisis, to eliminate its manifestations, and

to follow up the implementation of the council's decisions [words indistinct] during its meeting in the economic and trade capital, Aden, with the aim of promoting the march of unity and democracy and building the institutions of the state of order and law.

YSP Leadership Prepares 'New Initiative'

PM1711163893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

['Abd-al-Rahman ah-Haydari and Iqbal 'Abdallah report: "Yemen: New Socialist Party Initiative; Denial of Reports of Military Deployments"]

[Excerpts] Sanaa, Aden—Authoritative sources in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leadership have disclosed that the party is preparing a new initiative to end the political crisis in Yemen. The United States has renewed its support for the country's unity. An authoritative Yemeni military source has denied the existence of any military deployments by the parties to the crisis or in any Yemeni region. The source described reports of the existence of such deployments in the Qa'tabah area or other areas as exaggerated and baseless.

The source pointed out that a number of the newly set up checkpoints have been removed in implementation of the instructions issued by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and decisions of the House of Representatives and the government. The source stressed that "the Yemeni Armed Forces are keeping away from the circle and influence of the partisan political conflict currently taking place on the Yemeni scene. They will always be a safety valve for everyone and for the homeland. And they will continue to be the people's striking force to protect unity, democracy, and all national achievements against any threats." [passage omitted]

YSP leadership sources have revealed that the party is "preparing a new initiative to end the political crisis, which has witnessed a serious escalation threatening unity and democracy in Yemen." The sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that "the initiative will not exceed the proposals made by the party to tackle the deteriorating situation in the country." These proposals were made from the announcement of unity on 22 May 1990 and until the legislative elections held on 27 April, that is during the transitional period.

The sources stressed that "Yemen will not witness an explosion or a split as a result of the current crisis." The sources emphasized that "the logic of open and direct dialogue between the two parties to the dispute (YSP and GPC) and with the political parties and key national figures is the final solution for everyone." The sources added that the YSP "has the capability and ability to make initiatives based on the 18 points proposed by it to prevent the country from moving toward an impasse."

The sources pointed out that "the escalation in the crisis has stopped and the road of dialogue is now open to all, following the YSP Central Committee's statement at the end of its extraordinary meeting last week and the U.S. State Department's statement on the political crisis." The sources said that "the YSP is not opposed to foreign mediation and initiatives regarding the Yemeni affair. In fact it welcomes them on condition they not affect the national issues relating to sovereignty."

Regarding the GPC's response to the YSP Central Committee's statement, the sources said that "the present situation in the country poses a threat, and the issues are much bigger than the replies and reactions. The crisis need a responsible dialogue to resolve it. And the YSP is not adopting private solutions, but solutions which represent the opinions and demands of the people in the country, which is currently run without a system or a law. There is no security in the country and people are not living a dignified life. Furthermore, three years after unity Yemen has become two states, not one state with one flag and one national anthem." [passage omitted]

Officers Held After Incident at al-Bid Sons' House

PM1711155093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Nov 93 pp 1, 4

[Reports by Lutfi Shatarah in Aden and Hamud Munsir in Sanaa: "Yemeni Officers Open Fire on the House of al-Bid's Sons in Aden"]

[Excerpts] The Yemeni security authorities yesterday arrested six officers of the 1st military police battalion, which was moved to Aden from Sanaa two years ago, after gunfire was directed at the home of the sons of Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid in al-Tawahi area in Aden. Security sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that two people carrying two baskets containing a number of hand grenades were arrested yesterday as they were about to enter the main Yemeni Airways building opposite the residence of House of Representatives Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar.

At 0345 yesterday an armed group fired 15 rounds at the home of al-Bid's sons. Security sources confirmed that the members of that group were immediately arrested and their interrogation began immediately after they were taken to al-Tawahi police station. But security sources in Aden also confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that six officers of various ranks from the 1st battalion were arrested on the charge of opening fire on the home of al-Bid's sons and were then handed over to the Army intelligence authorities for interrogation.

This is the second incident targeting al-Bid's sons in 10 days but none of the sons was injured in either incident. In the first incident targeting the vice president's sons Yanuf and Nayif in the al-Mansurah area the Friday before last, their cousin Kamil 'Abdallah al-Hamid was killed.

Political sources believe that the firing on the residence of al-Bid's sons was part of the provocations aimed at

al-Bid for refusing to return to Sanaa before fulfillment of the demands he made in the 18 points submitted by his Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. [passage omitted]

YSP sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the party will insist on the points submitted by its Secretary General al-Bid and upheld by the YSP Central Committee at its latest session whatever the provocations against al-Bid and his party.

The same sources revealed that Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki made an initiative to resolve the political crisis in Yemen, inviting al-Bid and Salih to hold an open and frank meeting in the Eritrean capital Asmara. That was in a message delivered last week by the Eritrean interior minister who visited both Aden and Sanaa to promote such a meeting and get both sides to accept the Eritrean initiative.

But YSP sources have emphasized that any initiatives or solutions not based on tangible steps to implement the more urgent demands, such as the security issue, the call for the handing over of the killers accused of attempting to assassinate a number of YSP members, and removal of camps from the main cities and from the capitals of governorates, would not be acceptable and there would be no response to them.

While numerous attempts were being made to break the deadlock, Shaykh Sinan Abu-Luhum, leader of the Nationalist Forces Union, revealed an initiative from President Salih including his acceptance of the 18 points submitted by al-Bid. At a press conference held by the Nationalist Forces Union, Abu-Luhum said that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih told him in a telephone conversation that he accepts the 18 points provided no more points are submitted, meaning that he would not accept other demands by the YSP.

Interior Minister on Shooting, 'Breakthrough'

PM1811112293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Nov 93 p 1

[Faysal Makram and Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah report: "Al-Mutawakkil Denies House Was Hit, Believes Crisis Heading for Breakthrough"]

[Excerpt] Sanaa, Aden—The house of Dr. 'Adnan al-Bid, son of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council and secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist party, was the target of a shooting incident in Aden at dawn on Monday.

Yemeni Interior Minister Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil has said in a statement to AL-HAYAH that Dr. 'Adnan al-Bid's house did not receive direct hits in shooting incident which took place in the al-'Arusah district in Aden city, and that the bullets were fired in the air at dawn. He stated that a number of suspects have been held pending investigation. They live in the houses from which the shots were fired. A number of military police elements have also been held. They had their own firearms on them when they were arrested. Investigations are continuing, and the arms belonging to the detained persons are being examined to ascertain whether their arms were the source of the shots.

The Yemeni interior minister added: "This case has no serious side effects. It is an ordinary incident which could happen anywhere. But prevalent sensitivities in the areas in which the incident occurred and the circumstances of the current crisis in the country prompts thorough investigation, although it is a routine investigation aimed at identifying the perpetrators.

On latest developments in the investigation concerning the assassination of 'Ali Salim al-Bid's nephew, Brig. al-Mutawakkil said: "I can say that security services have not yet reached real indications through the investigations into this case. Some suspects have been held. Some people have been released as they have no link with the case. Security services are also searching for some people who are associated with the case as a result of their link with the suspects. The investigations are continuing, and there will be real indications soon."

Concluding his statement, al-Mutawakkil said that "a breakthrough is about to be achieved in the present political crisis in the country. But it will take some time for this breakthrough to emerge." He said that "sitting at the table of direct dialogue will ease the severity of the tension day by day. And the circumstances of the crisis have proved that there are no premeditated intentions by the parties—which has eased the severity of military tension. Matters will gradually revert to their status before the crisis. The Council of Ministers' decisions have begun to bear fruit. People's concerns have begun to disappear. And they have begun to recover their confidence as a result of the disappearance of the causes of this crisis." [passage omitted]

Further al-Mutawakkil Comments

PM1711153693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Nov 93 p 2

[Interview with Interior Minister Yahya al-Mutawakkil by Lutfi Shatarah in Aden; date not given]

[Text] [Shatarah] While the political crisis continues to intensify among the conflicting parties, there are reports of the deployment of military forces in a number of governorates, especially Ibb and Ta'izz. What truth is there in this?

[Al-Mutawakkil] There are many reports here about military movements. But when we try to verify these reports, they are often found to be untrue. Eighty percent of the reports are not corroborated. I obtained this figure from the total number of reports received here and there by both the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]. Furthermore, if there are movements, committees from the parliament have moved in various directions: One moved from Sanaa to Aden via al-Bayda', Dhamar, and Abyan, and another

committee moved to Aden via Dhamar, Ibb, and Lahij. These committees are authorized by the parliament to pass through the new military points and—if they exist—work to remove them. The tasks is now the responsibility of the parliamentary committees.

But in view of the statement issued by the Council of Ministers last Friday, I believe that the defense minister will be responsible to the Council of Ministers for implementing what is listed in the statement. They are now obliged—if there is corroborated information of that kind—to send someone to remove these new military creations, be they military posts or points. For my part, I have taken responsibility for removing any newly set up points or points which are henceforth set up during the crisis. I have also entrusted all security directors in the governorates to play their role in finding and removing any new points.

[Shatarah] Will all the previous and new points be removed?

[Al-Mutawakkil] First, the Council of Ministers entrusted the interior minister with removing all the newly set up points, be they military or civilian, in coordination with the Defense Ministry. With regard to the points set up before the crisis and which security requirements prompt us to retain, they must be under the Interior Ministry's control. Security and military police forces should participate in them if there is a need for them to exist, and we will resolve this task within the next two weeks.

[Shatarah] What about the arms which were smuggled to Aden Governorate and are said to belong to central security forces?

[Al-Mutawakkil] We do not deny that a truck carried supply material, including arms, to central security forces in Aden. No one denied the existence of these arms. Indeed they were sent under a license and were seized by the governorate because of the exceptional conditions the country is experiencing. These arms are still in the governorate's custody. The governor promised to return them when the crisis is over. It was not a smuggling operation, nor was it conducted secretly. The arms were sent openly and with a license.

[Shatarah] A report by a parliamentary committee said that you announced that the murder of Kamil 'Abdallah al-Hamid, nephew of Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, is not political in nature and that it is a criminal incident.

[Al-Mutawakkil] The parliamentary committee was confused. Some people thought that I said that the case has no political background, when in fact I said that the investigations have not proved whether the case is political or nonpolitical, and that the investigations have not yet been completed; that is all that happened.

[Shatarah] In the light of this crisis and the concern that the situation may explode as a result of the large quantities of arms spread inside the country, how do you view the implementation of the law on the acquisition of firearms in order to avert great dangers?

[Al-Mutawakkil] The political crisis has affected the entire administration and the activities and work of state organs in general, especially the Interior Ministry. The crisis has affected our activities and plans, as we had planned to launch security campaigns in the areas in which thieves and bandits exist. This step was already planned to be implemented by the Army and security forces. There were several plans to limit the acquisition of arms in cities. The plan was to begin with senior officials, notables, and public figures. But when the crisis broke out, it delayed all these plans. Because under these political conditions it is difficult to mobilize armed military units or aircraft or to prevent public figures from acquiring arms or having security. So without doubt the crisis has affected our activities a lot. However, we are determined to continue to work to fight crime to the best of our ability. When the crisis is over, we will begin to implement the plans which we have deferred. We urgently need to strike at crime in its dens.

[Shatarah] In your capacity as a key leader in the GPC, how do you view the crisis, its dimensions, and its secrets?

[Al-Mutawakkil] The crisis is the outcome of differing views. And maybe it is the outcome of weak points in the agreements and treaties announced before and after unity between the GPC and the YSP and among the current coalition parties. Although the crisis is painful and has badly harmed security and social and political stability, I believe it gives us the opportunity to review and tackle these mistakes in order to avoid them in the future. It gives us the opportunity to rebuild unity on stronger foundations so as to prevent such a crisis from happening again. I believe the crisis is harmful but at the same time it is useful in terms of what we should do to prevent a repetition of such crises in the future and to correct any mistakes which may have been made.

[Shatarah] Some people believe that the current crisis has caused some people to believe it is necessary to raise the previous confederation or federation proposals, and perhaps separation.

[Al-Mutawakkil] I am certain that no one is contemplating separation at all, neither within the GPC or the YSP. Nor are the previous plans, such as a federation or confederation, being raised, because we realize that what we have achieved is a historic action, and backtracking on it even slightly would harm its value and the historic, unionist, and social dimensions. However, if we reexamine the statements made by GPC officials and al-Bid, we will find that they denied these steps when they were asked about them. Their answers are sufficient to reassure those who are concerned about Yemen and its unity.

Complications and mistakes must be resolved through dialogue. Separation—or an explosion—or the old plans are not raised for discussion in any dialogue in any way.

[Shatarah] Attacks on oil companies are continuing. What is the fate of your security plan to protect foreign companies, and what are the details of this plan?

[Al-Mutawakkil] As I explained, the crisis has affected our security plans, especially the plan relating to building the force whose task is to protect foreign companies. A committee was formed under Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. The defense minister, the chief of political security, and I made the arrangements for implementation and presented them to the prime minister.

But the crisis erupted and thus was difficult for the committee to meet. When it is over, we will resume our meetings and decisions will be issued to form this force, which will be supplied with special equipment and arms and well trained. They will also have their own distinct uniform and will be responsible for protecting oil-prospecting centers and the companies' movements in these positions. We have not yet discussed the question of financing this force. But foreign oil companies will contribute to financing and guiding this force.

[Shatarah] The first of the 18 points proposed by the YSP to resolve the crisis is the need to hand over and bring to trial those suspected of assassinating a number of its members. And the YSP also says that it has evidence and knows their whereabouts. It also accuses officials in power of protecting these criminals.

[Al-Mutawakkil] Many accusations have been exchanged in the midst of the crisis. These accusations and counteraccusations have no basis. We as a security body want names and suspects. Then we would deal with the case on the basis of specific factors. As far as we—the Interior Ministry—are concerned, nothing has yet been officially submitted to us by any quarter about names, whereabouts, or suspects. Maybe after the Council of Ministers' statement and the beginning of the investigation with the suspects held, we are going to receive the names of fugitives whom we are supposed to pursue and arrest. An action can be taken then, but at present we have no information to rely on.

[Shatarah] What stage has been reached in the measures taken to pursue the (Jihad) elements who escaped from al-Mansurah central prison in Kritar [as transliterated] three months ago? And why have the other detained elements not been tried?

[Al-Mutawakkil] The Council of Ministers' recent decision contains a task for the interior minister, the chief of political security, and the public prosecutor, namely to look for and pursue these elements and bring them to trial. As for those who are still in prison without a trial, the statement ordered us to bring them to trial immediately. Maybe before the end of the week the investigation will be completed with those who are in prison, then they will stand trial. After that we will have to pursue the fugitives, and we are determined to do everything possible to arrest them.

Article Decries U.S. 'Aggressiveness'

JN1711183093 Baghdad INA in English 1400 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 17, INA—AL-THAWRAH newspaper of Baghdad said the American policy of President Clinton administration still maintains aggressiveness despite Clinton use of a moral language resorted to by previous Democrat presidents.

A paper article here today said that perpetuation of blockade on Iraq, invasion of Somalia, imposing sanctions on Libya and the American failure to contain the crisis in Bosnia rebuff ethics of Democrat presidents and showing them similar to the Republican presidents who were obsessed by wars and aggression and escalating regional conflicts in various parts of the world.

The paper further explained that the U.S. domination of the United Nations and the Security Council turned the international organization into a mere political department affiliated to the U.S. State Department.

AL-THAWRAH stressed that the United States during the eras of Presidents Bush and Clinton had gravely violated international laws and norms without even feeling that it was committing dangerous error against the independent and member states of the United Nations.

The paper referred to the recognition of President Clinton that the United States was suffering from a moral crisis and said that Clinton was saying an objective reality about the American state of affairs and the nature of its social, economic and political institutions.

The paper was of the opinion that American presidents should learn something about the Iraqi political ethics and cited in this regard the order of President Saddam Husayn to release an American prisoner Kenneth Beaty in response to humanitarian appeals by several American dignitaries.

The paper said that Iraq has maintained a high standard of political diplomatic ethics at a time the United States insists on fabricating pretexts to perpetuate the embargo on Iraq and practicing various forms of political blackmail against its people.

Daily Assails Clinton's 'Torturing' Other Nations

JN1611181193 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 16, INA—The English language daily THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER said once again the U.S. Administration has used the UN as an instrument to intimidate nations which oppose the imperialist powers. Libya has become the latest target on Clinton's hit list when the UN Security Council announced new sanctions against it because of its failure to hand over two suspects wanted in connection with the bombing of an American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988.

It seems that Clinton has fallen into the habit of torturing the people of other nations. Perhaps he wants to make up for his failure in healing the wounds of his own people. Recent reports have shown that America is in a quagmire of violence, drugs, crime, unemployment and AIDS. Bush, his predecessor, was no better than him when he forced the UN to impose unjust sanctions against the Iraqis and then launched with allies a vicious aggression against Iraq under the disguise of internationally legitimacy.

Next Clinton directed his arrows towards Somalia and invaded this war-torn and famine-ravaged African state under the umbrella of the UN and under the pretext of bringing food aid to the Somalis. But everything turned up against Clinton and the UN mission was nothing but a fiasco.

Instead of learning a lesson from the steadfastness of the Somalis and the Iraqis, Clinton went on to look for another victim and that was Haiti, the poor Caribbean island. Clinton also exploited the usual UN weapon to impose trade sanctions against Haiti under the pretext of restoring democracy but here too Clinton's troops will definitely be thrown out and the Haitians will be capable like the Somalis and the Iraqis to abort any conspiracy against their country.

Today Libya has fallen into the trap of Clinton's foreign policy. He once again has used his puppet, the UN Security Council, to impose more sanctions against Libya including a freeze on Libyan assets abroad, a ban on the sale of certain oil industry equipment to Libya and a tightening of the present embargo on airlinks.

The UN should now realize that starving people cannot solve problems and hence it should resort to other options if it really desires to achieve peace and stability in the world and should also reject any intervention in its own decisions.

Prime Minister Receives Vietnamese Finance Minister

JN1711165193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir today received Ho Te, the Vietnamese minister of finance and head of the Joint Vietnamese-Iraqi Committee.

During the meeting, the prime minister reaffirmed Iraq's desire to promote bilateral ties in the interest of the great friendship existing between the two countries. He noted the joint struggle of the Iraqi and Vietnamese peoples, who waged protracted battles in defense of their sovereignty, free will, and independence. He added: What Iraq is currently experiencing is a transient development. It will inevitably vanish, thanks to the Iraqis' steadfastness and valor in confronting the evil powers, which were unable, praised be the Lord, to undermine the free will and independence of great Iraq.

For his part, Vietnamese Finance Minister Ho Te expressed pleasure over visiting Iraq. He also admired the Iraqi people's steadfastness in the face of the aggression. Furthermore, he appreciated the splendid accomplishments achieved by Iraqis during the reconstruction and development endeavor. He added: It pleases me to relay the greetings of his excellency the Vietnamese president to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He also voiced his country's eagerness to promote its ties with Iraq in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

The meeting was attended by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and Cabinet Secretary Hamid Salih al-Rawi.

Prime Minister Meets Bankers, Stresses Role of Private Sector

JN1711151693 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 11 Nov 93 p 2

[Text] Baghdad, INA—Prime Minister Ahmad Husyan Khudayyir yesterday received the head and members of the Iraqi Investment Bank's Board of Directors.

During the meeting, the prime minister stressed the interest of the command of the party and the revolution, led by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, in the private sector's contribution to development. He quoted his excellency the president as saying: "If there had been no private sector, we would have created it so that it would take part in economic development in Iraq."

He indicated that investment is the basic foundation of all economic activities, both agricultural and industrial. He indicated that the current extraordinary circumstances experienced by Iraq will inevitably come to an end. He added that the private sector will have a substantial role in the field of investment in the future and will join hands with the socialist sector to achieve prosperity for the Iraqi people.

The prime minister listened to some proposals and remarks by the head and members of the bank's Board of Directors on the promotion and facilitation of the bank's work.

The meeting was attended by Hamid Salih al-Rawi, head of the Council of Ministers' secretariat, and the director general of the follow-up directorate at the council.

Saddam Allocates Funds for Vocational Schools

JN1411210993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has ordered the allocation of 20 million dinars for the enhancement and promotion of production projects at vocational schools.

This was reported to a correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency by Dr. Salim 'Abd-al-'Abbas al-Za'iri, Ministry of Education under secretary for technical affairs. Al-Za'iri added that this amount will contribute toward replenishing shortages in machines, equipment, appliance, and materials required for scientific training at industrial, agricultural, and commercial schools.

The Ministry of Education official pointed out that this amount will support production processes at all kinds of preparatory vocational schools in the country. This objective will be achieved, he added, through the pursuit of an incentive regime based on distributing profits among students enrolled at such schools. [passage indistinct]

Minister Interviewed on Peace Process, Iran

JN1411122593 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Nov 93 p 26

[Interview with Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi by correspondent Mahir Abu-Tayr in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Tayr] Information here and there says the Jordanian-Iraqi relationship is lukewarm and no longer like before. How do you frankly assess this relationship?

[Hammadi] Our relations with Jordan are good, and not lukewarm as rumored. All such talk about lukewarm relations between Jordan and Iraq is untrue. We must know that there are enemies who want to undermine this relationship. We in Iraq appreciate, and are well aware of Jordan's circumstances. We do not have any apprehensions in this regard.

[Abu-Tayr] Have any international parties approached you about the possibility of lifting the embargo in return for joining the peace settlement move and ending the boycott of Israel?

[Hammadi] We only heard of such a deal through the media. I believe this is merely a test balloon designed to draw reactions.

[Abu-Tayr] If the Arab boycott of Israel is lifted, and if diplomatic relations are established with it in the future, what would Iraq's position be?

[Hammadi] We refuse to take any step such as lifting the embargo of Israel, even if the Arabs lift this embargo. We even refuse to discuss any such offer. We will not establish any trade or diplomatic relations with Israel regardless of the circumstances. In brief, Iraq does not have, and will not have, any connection with the peace settlement.

[Abu-Tayr] What is your position on the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, especially since in the 12 August [1990] initiative, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn demanded Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in return for withdrawal from Kuwait?

[Hammadi] To begin with, it must be known that the PLO did not consult us on this agreement. Like others, we only heard about it. However, at the same time we

support the Palestinian Arab people's rights. Thus, if the Gaza-Jericho First agreement recognizes the Palestinian rights and ambitions, we would uphold these rights against Zionist usurpation. Moreover, the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, and is the party that would bear the consequences of its steps, whether negative or positive. I believe that the Palestinians have large question marks about this agreement. I reiterate that no one consulted us, just like in 1973. The state's official and declared policy is supportive of Palestinian rights against usurpation. The objective of liberating Palestine should not be canceled, and we do not want to close the future door to the Palestinian people.

[Abu-Tayr] How do you view Kuwait now? Is it still part of Iraq? What is your exact position?

[Hammadi] The big powers can change geography but they cannot change history. I am not speaking emotionally. There are many examples on this. Regardless of partial solutions, the Palestine question, for instance, has not ended, nor has Palestine ended. Likewise, China has not forgotten the islands of Formosa; West Germany did not forget East Germany; and Kuwait used to be part of Iraq.

[Abu-Tayr] Would you sum up the reasons behind the Iraq-Kuwait crisis, especially since both countries used to have normal relations and mutual diplomatic representation?

[Hammadi] Kuwait reduced oil prices, which caused us profound losses. Moreover, we demanded Kuwait to demarcate the common border but Kuwait rejected. We used to apologize for not demarcating the border as requested by Kuwait when we were preoccupied with the Iran-Iraq war.

I believe that Kuwait was used to destroy Iraq. We told the Kuwaitis: The West pays $25 per barrel of oil, so why do you sell it for $10 for example? We literally told them: Prove to us that this is in Kuwait's interest, and we will bless it. However, Kuwait continued this policy until the Mother of Battles broke out. It was actually the Mother of Battles because Iraq confronted 33 states. We stood fast. If it was a country other than Iraq, it would have completely collapsed into fragments. Perhaps, you recall that Baker told Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva: We will return you to the pre-industrialized age. This shows that the scheme was heinous.

[Abu-Tayr] Do you believe there is a possibility of reconciling the Arabs and restoring relations with the countries which stood against Iraq?

[Hammadi] We raised the banner of Arab solidarity because the Arabs' strength lies in solidarity. All countries in the world attempt to minimize differences and to form blocs, even the countries which were at war. If this is so, what about the countries which have the same nationalism? We would like to note that some countries took part in the aggression against Iraq and prevented any solution to the political crisis. Meanwhile, there are countries that did not participate in this. We still raise the slogan of Arab solidarity. However, there are parties that raise the slogan of solidarity with the enemies against Iraq. There was aggression launched against us. Approximately 88,000 tons of bombs were dropped on us, we offered tens of thousands of martyrs, and many families were buried alive. The objective is to plunder Iraq and destroy it. There are still conspirators. Despite this, we say to the Arabs: Extend your hands for the sake of the nation, not for the sake of America.

[Abu-Tayr] Let us speak about the Jordanian media and its stand vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis?

[Hammadi] The fact is that the stand of the Jordanian media was very noble. Honor was clear in the stand of the Jordanian media and the stands adopted by the writers and journalists.

[Abu-Tayr] Some reports affirm the existence of Iraqi-Iranian rapprochement. Are these reports true?

[Hammadi] Bilateral talks are being held between Iraq and Iran. And before speaking about improving relations, there are issues that must be resolved. The most important issue is the problem of the Iraqi prisoners of war held in Iranian captivity camps. Iran is playing an immoral game which is considered illegal by the Islamic shari'a and the international law. There are approximately 25,000 Iraqi POWs who are officially registered with the United Nations; and there are approximately 30,000 prisoners who are not registered. Iran is using the POW card to blackmail Iraq. However, they cannot blackmail us.

Iran claims that there are approximately 50,000 Iranian POW in Iraq. This figure was then reduced to approximately 2,000. We have no Iranian POW; we only have Iranian families as refugees and the Red Cross ascertained this through joint committees with the Iranians. The strange paradox is that Iran refuses to repatriate 5,000 refugees, who expressed a desire to go back to Iran.

We say the following to Iran: If you want normal relations the POW problems must be resolved and the 148 warplanes must be returned [to Iraq].

Let me be frank and tell you that the recent Iranian moves toward Iraq seek to threaten and blackmail the West. Iran wants to tell the West that if its demands are not met it will then set up relations with Iraq. Iran is telling the West: Hurry up before it is too late.

The Iranians might be playing a game, and we know full well the intentions of the Iranian side.

[Abu-Tayr] Do you believe that the Europeans will move toward Iraq to normalize relations before the United States makes such a step?

[Hammadi] The hostile current is abating. The British Labor and Liberal Parties are against the policy of isolation and against U.S. policies. There are continuous calls to go back on this anti-Iraq approach. The tendency

to abate the anti-Iraqi approach is increasing in Britain, France, and Italy. This European stand is reflected in the European media organs which are playing down their hostility to Iraq.

[Abu-Tayr] How do you assess Iraqi media's performance in these circumstances? Do you still believe that the Iraqi political rhetoric is still effective?

[Hammadi] We believe that media should be effective, not only a means. We also depend on our media tools, contrary to others. We resort to the Iraqi political rhetoric, which has reached the whole world, despite the advanced western media mechanism which fights us and carries our ideas such as our desire to liberate Palestine and destroy Israel out of their belief that they will distort our reputation. This might move the Westerners, but this has—unintentionally—served us and carried our ideas to the Arabs.

Commentary Condemns Regime's 'Oppressive' Measures

NC1511194893 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] The past few weeks have meant for Iraq a continuation of the state of worry, violence, and tension of the internal situation which it has been living in for over 20 years. Perhaps these weeks have added a new dimension to the behavior of the authorities and their ever-increasing obsessions. Another group of measures and practices that fall within the framework of organized oppression and violence by the authorities were carried out, such as muscle-flexing through air maneuvers, renewed use of chemical weapons in the marshlands, military mobilization in the north and south, and propaganda about the coming hour of victory. This [words indistinct] of the regime and its well-known supporters. In addition, the regime issued a decision pardoning draft-dodgers and recalling retired officers.

All these measures reflect the current internal situation in Iraq with its intertwined images combining the steadfastness of the Iraqi people and their insistence on resisting the regime on the one hand, and the adherence of the regime to using all weapons and violent methods to confront the will of the Iraqi people on the other.

It is natural for the regime's oppressive attacks to increase in view of the dark international dimension whose objective is to distance itself from Iraq's internal events. When the international community interferes in Iraq's internal affairs, it does so for reasons and interests that have nothing to do with the humanitarian or legal aspect of things. In addition, the increased internal oppression is a measure of the ambitions of the regime to carry out a new aggressive adventure on the regional level. The regime's experience over twenty years has revealed many facts, among which is the reality that the use of internal violence against the people is not the end of the series of Saddamite oppression. In fact, it is a beginning on the foreign level. Just when the internal front calms down in favor of the hegemony of this regime, allowing it to spread its dictatorial influences, it immediately moves to external battles, violating borders or searching for a new role in the region.

This fact has been manifested in the regime's attempts through a series of aggressions and hostilities extending along Iraq's borders and throughout the era of tyrant Saddam Husayn's rule, beginning with Iran, on to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Syria, in addition to its behavior in numerous other countries.

This fact is not to frighten the opposition; it is a portrayal of the regime's aggressive nature. It is a clear indication of its nature which the people in the region know better than others. There is a link between the policies of internal oppression and the motives of aggression on neighboring countries. In addition, talking about destroying the weapons of the regime and controlling its military arsenal does not contain any comforting facts, especially since this regime's aggression always takes place with an international will and external intentions that have their own interests, strategies, and objectives behind any aggressive military move by the regime.

This raises many suspicions and questions about the true position of these countries and their suspect relations with the killer regime in Iraq.

Peres Clarifies 'Slip' About Palestinian State

TA1711165893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the Knesset today that the Israeli Government will not stop the peace process because of terror attacks, however painful they may be. Replying to motions to the agenda, Peres said that today one cannot demand anything from the PLO other than to denounce terror. We will only be able to test the PLO soon, when the Palestinian police force begins operating in Gaza. During his speech, Shim'on Peres said the PLO will establish a Palestinian state [medina] in Gaza, but following loud protests from the opposition benches, he clarified that this had been a slip of the tongue and that he had meant to say a Palestinian police force [mishtara]. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] The debate in the plenum proceeded uneventfully until Peres' slip, which you will soon hear. [passage omitted]

[Peres] The government will not allow anybody to break the law. There are no double standards where the law is concerned; one law applies to all. Everybody will have to abide by the laws of this country and the Knesset. The majority will decide, and the security forces will act accordingly. I would like to reiterate that we consider ourselves responsible for the life of every settler in the State of Israel, wherever he may be.

[Hecht] Members of the opposition asked: Why does the PLO continue to murder people? Here is Shim'on Peres' answer—an answer that will undoubtedly go down in the history books.

[Peres] All that the PLO can do today is to denounce terror. It has no real power to act against it. The test will be when a Palestinian state is established in Gaza, just as there is a Palestinian state in Jordan. Then we will be able to demand accountability from it.

[Hecht] Loud protests that the cat is finally out of the bag ensued from the opposition benches. Peres tried to explain that he did not say the word state. That is what Freud said, right-wing Knesset members shouted back at him. Peres ended the argument then and there by lashing out at Moshe Qatzav.

[Peres] Not a Palestinian state! Are you deaf? I am telling you, there will be no Palestinian state! What will be established is a Palestinian police force. [end recording]

'Terrorist' Kills Soldier in Gaza; Rabin Comments

TA1711163493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] An IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier was fatally stabbed near the Nahal 'Oz checkpoint at the entrance to the Gaza Strip. His family has been notified. The assailant, a member of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], was captured.

Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Nisim Qeynan report that this afternoon, the soldier, who was on reserve duty, was waiting at a snack bar at the Nahal 'Oz checkpoint for a car to take him to his unit. A terrorist attacked the soldier and stabbed him in the neck. The terrorist then grabbed his victim's rifle and attempted to shoot other soldiers at the scene. Tzvi Sa'ar, the owner of the snack bar and a member of Kibbutz Nahal 'Oz, rushed at the terrorist, snatched the weapon away, and managed to subdue the assailant until soldiers arrived. A medical team rushed to the scene and attempted to resuscitate the mortally wounded soldier but he died at the site.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that despite all the pain and sorrow over the murder of the soldier at Nahal 'Oz, both the peace process with the Palestinians and the war against terrorism will continue. Rabin said that all Israelis, whether in uniform or not, must bear in mind that these are sensitive times and remain constantly alert. The terrorists, the prime minister said, are trying to murder both Israelis and the chances for peace. Rabin was speaking in Canada after meeting with the Canadian prime minister.

Opposition Urges Rabin Return Following Gaza Attack

TA1711171593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] The Likud Knesset faction has said the government is conducting the negotiations as if there were no terror. Knesset Member 'Uzi Landau said personal safety in Israel is slowly deteriorating to the point that terrorists do as they please.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the National Religious Party called on the defense minister to cut short his visit abroad and return home at once. Faction chairman Yig'al Bibi said the defense minister must be in Israel and conduct a wise and firm policy, as required by the events, from here.

Rabin To Return as Scheduled

TA1811075793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Report from Canada by Natan Gutman]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday interspersed his meetings in Ottawa with telephone conversations with Shim'on Peres and IDF [Israel Defense Forces] commanders, who updated him on defense and political events in Israel.

Rabin, whose previous U.S. visit was cut short by a spate of terrorist attacks at home, is not about to cut this visit

short. His aides have announced that the prime minister will return home on Sunday as scheduled.

In his meetings in Canada, Rabin repeated again and again: A suspension of talks as a result of terrorist attacks will play into the hands of agreement opponents.

[Begin Rabin recording, in English] We are determined to fight terrorism with all the force within the limits of our laws, but at the same time not to let them undermine the hope for peace. And therefore, we'll continue the negotiations with the Palestinians as they are continued today in Cairo and will be continued next week in Cairo, and wherever we'll find it necessary to do so. [end recording]

Last night Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin arrived in Montreal, where he is to deliver the central address at the annual convention of the Jewish Federations of North America.

Army Reportedly Steps Up Presence in Territories

TA1811072793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Sergeant Hayim Darina, who was killed in a terrorist attack at the entrance to Gaza yesterday, will be laid to rest at 1400 this afternoon at the Karmi'el cemetery. Darina, a 41-year-old army reservist, was stabbed near the Nahal 'Oz checkpoint in the Gaza Strip. The assailant, a Gaza resident named 'Iyad Salim Husayn 'Arur, apparently acting on behalf of the Islamic Jihad, was caught. Security forces last night sealed off his home.

Jewish settlers protested this morning at the Nahal 'Oz and Erez junctions. There were demonstrations throughout the country last night, but no disturbances were reported. [passage omitted]

The Army is stepping up its presence in the territories following the deterioration in the security situation. Military sources say there are fears of an escalation in attacks against Israelis.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 18 November adds: "Border policemen have captured two wanted men in Gaza; one belongs to Fatah and the other to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. The two were involved in attacks against Arabs whom they suspected of collaboration with Israel." "The wanted men had a rifle and a handgun in their possession."]

Gur: 'Arafat Not Implementing Commitment To Stop Terror

TA1811113593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Israel's Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur has accused Yasir 'Arafat of not appealing directly to Fatah members in the territories to lay down their arms. In a radio interview this morning, Gur said 'Arafat was not implementing his commitment to stop terrorism.

Fatah Leaflet Urges Palestinians To Kill Settlers

NC1711124293 Paris AFP in English 1206 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Nov 17 (AFP)—A leaflet signed Fatah called Wednesday [17 November] on Palestinians to kill Jewish settlers following continued attacks on Arabs.

"If peace is to proceed over our dead bodies and over our dignity then to hell with this peace," said the statement distributed in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

The anonymous authors of the text were outraged at Tuesday's killing of a schoolboy by soldiers in the adjacent town of al-Birah. Eighteen Palestinians have been killed by Israeli bullets since the PLO signed the autonomy agreement on September 13.

"We call upon all people to announce confrontation in all means and ways. Let our motto be 'the best defence is offense'," the tract said.

"Do not allow settlers to attack you. Attack them before they attack you. Kill them before they kill you.

"If the settlers and the Israeli military forces think that our intifadah has ended and theirs has just begun, they are clearly mistaken."

Official Fatah leaders refused immediate comment on the leaflet which counters PLO orders to halt all violence.

Clashes erupted between Palestinians and soldiers in Ramallah after the shooting which also left three other students wounded. Sporadic stone-throwing continued in the town on Wednesday.

"If Israel is not committed to peace ... if Israel ... continues to kill, detain, torture ... confiscate land and build settlements ... then what peace are they talking about?"

Palestinians in the territories have voiced anger at PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's condemnation last Saturday of the murder of a settler by Fatah militants on October 29 while soldiers and settlers are still shooting Palestinians without any Israeli Government condemnation.

'Arafat Adviser Disclaims Responsibility

TA1711184293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Studio interview with Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's special adviser on Israeli affairs, by Mikha Friedman on 17 November—recorded]

[Text] [Friedman] Good evening to Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's special adviser on Israeli affairs.

[Al-Tibi] Good evening.

[Friedman] It would be very interesting, Dr. al-Tibi, if the al-Shabibah leaflet distributed today in the Ramallah area and perhaps also in other locations in the territories is not the independent initiative of a few youths who refuse to recognize the authority of the Palestinian leadership but rather expresses the position of senior PLO officials.

[Al-Tibi] The Palestinian leadership is not familiar with the identity of those who prepared the leaflet to which you are referring.

[Friedman] Is it possible that somebody is trying to create a provocation?

[Al-Tibi] I do not want to engage in speculation. The Palestinian leadership does not know who is behind this leaflet.

[Friedman] What about the incidents of the past two days in al-Birah and the fact that a picture of Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] was held aloft at the head of the funeral procession of the youth killed yesterday by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers? All this seems to point to a resurgence of the intifadah, which we all thought was about to subside completely.

[Al-Tibi] Look, this is not happening in a vacuum. Lately, the behavior of the settlers and their rioting has gone beyond all limits. This has incensed the Palestinian populace in the occupied territories, and the people were further infuriated by the lack of any reaction on the part of the IDF. The IDF currently controls the territories and is legally obligated to provide protection for all the residents under its control. It is not doing so in the face of the acts of vandalism and vigilante-style behavior of a group of outlaws from among the settlers. The IDF is not using any of the legal measures at its disposal in order to defend the local populace.

[Friedman] Mr. al-Tibi, it seems that both the Israelis and the Palestinians are losing control over their respective publics, and this is quite bad, considering that we are about to implement a peace agreement that is problematic whichever way you choose to look at it.

[Al-Tibi] I agree that we must not lose control. At this stage, there is only one body in control in the territories and that is the IDF and the Israeli Government at times. When the PLO becomes the sovereign body in the territories in the physical sense, the Palestinians will exercise full control wherever there is full Palestinian authority. At this stage, while we are still talking about the IDF, it may indeed be losing control. The IDF must not lose control over the settlers. The Palestinians themselves can easily bear witness to the fact that when the IDF wants to use an iron fist, it is quite capable of doing so. I will not be surprised, however, if the settlers' riots continue without any appropriate response by the Israeli Government or the IDF. The result will be a sharp and fitting response from the Palestinians.

[Friedman] Therefore, you are predicting serious difficulties in the peace process. Do you believe that the process could grind to a halt before 13 December?

[Al-Tibi] At this stage, despite everything that is happening on both sides, the talks are continuing in Cairo in a positive atmosphere and are progressing nicely. By this I mean to clarify that there is no organic linkage between the two issues; however, there may be an erosion in the support of the Palestinian public in the occupied territories. Such a development would be to the detriment of all parties.

[Friedman] Are you talking about public support for the Palestinian leadership?

[Al-Tibi] Also for the peace process itself, certainly. I think that if the rioters continue to rampage and attack Palestinians without there being a suitable response, and considering that the Palestinians cannot defend themselves because there is no Palestinian police or security force which can defend them, then this will lead to the undermining of public support for the peace process.

[Friedman] Thank you, Dr. al-Tibi.

Settlement Council Issues Call 'Not To Hurt Arabs'

TA1711172093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza has called on settlers in the territories not to hurt innocent Arabs. A letter issued this evening says that although their protests will continue, the settlers are called upon not to hurt Israeli policemen and soldiers. Our correspondent Gil Litman points out that this is the first time that the council has issued a call not to hurt Arabs.

Two firebombs were thrown at an Egged bus in Hebron a short time ago, but they missed their mark.

Peres Conveys Position to al-Asad Via Hurd, Vranitzky

TA1811122493 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 18 Nov 93 p 7

[Report by Eldad Beck and Amnon Barzilay]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres asked British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky to relay a message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad whereby Israel intends to resume the talks with Syria within the next few weeks. In his letter to the two officials, Peres asked them to persuade al-Asad to agree to a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and affirmed that Israel is fully committed to making progress in all tracks of the peace talks.

At the same time, Israel asked Egypt to clarify to Damascus that an escalation of the situation in south Lebanon would be damaging and would not contribute to the promotion of the political negotiations. Political sources asked Egyptian diplomats to explain to the Syrians that if al-Asad wants to signal to Israel that Syria will not hold up the advancement of the negotiations, he will have to find other ways of signalling it. [passage omitted]

Peres Comments on Joint Cooperation With Jordan

TA1811120993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said today that Israel and Jordan are currently working on planning joint projects for the Jordan Rift Valley and fighting desertification. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that Peres this morning toured northern Dead Sea settlements and presented several ideas for joint projects with Jordan, including digging a canal, several dozen km-long, from the Red Sea into the valley; transferring the Elat and al-'Aqaba ports to the valley; and paving roads that will serve both countries.

Asked whether the Jordan River is Israel's security border, Minister Peres said we will not allow a foreign army to cross the river. He added that there is a need to examine whether the leaflet disseminated yesterday in Ramallah on behalf of Fatah is not forged.

Peres Views Regional Structure for Middle East

BR1611124893 Paris LE MONDE in French 11 Nov 93 p 1

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by LE MONDE special correspondents Patrice Claude and Bruno Frappat in Jerusalem on 9 November: "The Middle East Needs A 'Regional Structure'"]

[Text] In an interview given to LE MONDE on Thursday, 9 November, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres believed that "an agreement should soon be forthcoming" with Jordan. However, "although most of the problems have been resolved," he believes that it would be premature to organize another official meeting between the Hashemite monarch and Yitzhaq Rabin now—as suggested in Israel. Mr. Peres stressed that "a triangular economic structure has to be built up" between the Israelis, Jordanians, and Palestinians. He insisted on highlighting the importance of economic development to ensure peace and stated that there can be no solution in the Middle East "outside a regional structure."

[LE MONDE] After the Palestinians, is it now Jordan's turn? Are you that close to a peace agreement with King Husayn?

[Peres] The elections that have just taken place in this country can only help the peace process. The results (reflecting a clear decline in the Muslims and left-wing parties opposed to a peace agreement—LE MONDE editor's note) show that the public meetings between us—i.e., my meeting with Crown Prince Hasan in Washington last month, and the talks in Paris last week between two delegations representing our respective governments—did not have any negative effect whatsoever.

[LE MONDE] So will an agreement soon be signed? Will the prime minister, who leaves for Washington this week, meet with King Husayn?

[Peres] Although most of the problems with Jordan have been resolved, that deadline is too short. However, the agreement should not be long in coming, all the more so since we already put our signature to a negotiating schedule last month.

[LE MONDE] Do you really believe that King Husayn will sign an agreement with Israel without being given the green light by his powerful Syrian neighbor?

[Peres] Listen, we are not specifically aiming to drive a wedge between those two nations. We would like to see Syria move as fast as Jordan in the peace process. However, we do not believe that the speed of the peace train should be decided by the slowest wagons. The Jordanians are faster. They are participating in multilateral negotiations, whereas the Syrians refuse to do so. The Jordanians are meeting with us publicly, the Syrians refuse.

[LE MONDE] Even secretly?

[Peres] Even secretly. Not at all. President al-Asad is happy with the narrow channels which exist (via the intermediary of the United States and Egypt,—LE MONDE editor's note). Al-Asad is strange. He wants to be consulted by everyone before anyone makes a move, but does he consult anyone before making a move himself? Come on! Nonetheless, he has a great deal to lose. We are currently building up new economic and financial structures in the Middle East. Why should Jordan have to wait, isolated and alone, for Mr. al-Asad to make up his mind? It is not as if we were saying "yes" to the Jordanians alone; we are also ready to negotiate with Syria.

[LE MONDE] Is it true that Jordan is insisting on Israel maintaining the control of bridges over the River Jordan, which separates the kingdom from the occupied territories?

[Peres] No. They have their side and we have ours. I believe that Jordan wants to conserve its economic links with the Palestinians without becoming attached to them politically. The idea is to build up a triangular economic structure with ourselves and the Palestinians... a kind of Benelux-type of arrangement.

[LE MONDE] Yet the Benelux partnership involves equal partners in development. Your economy is 10

times more powerful and better developed than those of your neighbors. So what would be the advantage of such an alliance?

[Peres] Listen, it is simple. There is no chance of gaining a political settlement without improving our economic conditions. We must all understand that. The response to Islamic fundamentalism lies therein. If per capita GDP remains at $1,000 a year, then there will be trouble. If it doubles, then the risks of trouble will diminish accordingly. We will have a real geographical capital if we all share it: Jordan, the Dead Sea, the Red Sea, etc. Consider the problems concerning water: How many Middle Eastern countries are faced with the threat of disappearance through desertification? Eighty-nine percent of the 13 million square kilometers is already desert, and it is estimated that the countries concerned might well lose another quarter of their useful surface area to desert before the year 2000. Such a development would signal famine for many. However, water is not political; rain does not stop at customs, nor does it respect borders. The lines of confrontation could be transformed into zones of cooperation. If we do that, then it would reap great benefits for all our people, and it would change the entire political landscape in our region.

[LE MONDE] Nevertheless, how do you view the future of the region beyond the Israeli and Palestinian Jordan?

[Peres] Our greatest problem, philosophically speaking, is to construct a new future with the existing politico-economic establishment. We have a problem with "experts." Look at what happened to the experts on Soviet affairs and the Kremlin. They were brilliant, but who needs them now? Not only were they wrong about what happened in the former USSR, but they were also mistaken about what has happened in Russia since then. My fear is that the same thing would happen with our so-called experts. Their view of the Arabs is outdated, and economically they are out of their depth. Many of them are ironic, saying things like: "Peres, man of vision." Without any justification! I am not a visionary; I am merely a man who can see the way things are going.

[LE MONDE] What, in a nutshell, are you saying?

[Peres] That there can be no solution to the national problems of any country outside a regional structure. To begin with, we must reduce our negative expenditure on armaments. Each year, nearly $50 billion are spent in this sector within our region. Who is prepared to finance an arms race today? However, as you well know, no country will reduce its expenditure unless it is certain that all the others will do so as well. And that is something that can only be negotiated within the context of a regional structure.

After all, what is a common market? An attempt to translate geographical proximity into an economic advantage. The proximity does not exist if the borders are fortified and barricaded. In order to succeed, we must first establish an efficient communications system: A good network of transport, roads, railways, pipelines, telecommunications, etc. Nowadays it is speed that counts, and proximity favors rapid links.

[LE MONDE] And yet, is it not the Israelis themselves who need convincing? Should Israel be included in a European or a clearly Middle Eastern sphere of influence? You do not appear to really appreciate.

[Peres] It is true that we do have a problem with our identity, but that is not it. You have the same problem in France, where it is called the Americanization of society. The way I see it, the penetration of cable television poses a greater danger than the threat of an Arab invasion. So, please, let us differentiate between economic and cultural questions. Personally, I believe that the entire Middle East could be linked to Europe. You have become so productive that it would appear that you are incapable of producing anything other than unemployment. Meanwhile, we are saying to you: Go on, export your unemployment, your energy and production surpluses—here to us. Come and improve the standard of living here. It is not only our problem, it is also yours. There are 1 billion Muslims: If they all become fanatics and begin to acquire non-conventional arms on the fringes of Europe, then all hell will break loose. I have spoken about this with President Mitterrand, and Chancellor Kohl—and they agree with me. We are not saying that you should invest in one particular country or another, but rather that you should invest in an entire region.

[LE MONDE] Yet it is Israel which is asking the EC for special treatment. Does this not contradict what you are saying?

[Peres] No. We enjoy special relations with the EC. We are major buyers, our balance of trade is extremely unbalanced in its favor. It is in our capacity as a client that we are requesting special treatment. Furthermore, it is true that there is a special relation between Europe, which was a vast cemetery for us, and the Jews in general.

[LE MONDE] The peace agreement that you signed with the PLO completely sidesteps the issue of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees who lost their property and houses in 1948. What can you say to them?

[Peres] Firstly, I do not believe that they are considering returning to soil which today constitutes Israel. After all, here we have taken in between 800,000 and 900,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries; we resolved our problem. They will resolve theirs. They often ask: "Why do Jews have the guaranteed right to return to Israel, and not the Arabs? My answer is simple: If there were 21 Jewish states, we would not have the right to return to Israel. Everyone would have the choice! We cannot undo a Jewish state to make an Arab state in its place. That is impossible. For us it is a question of survival.

Regarding the Arab refugees from 1948, we are looking into their destiny. Along with the Palestinians, we are

participating in a working group devoted to this question. We are looking for ways of settling the problem.

[LE MONDE] When will Yasir 'Arafat cross the border?

[Peres] Which one?

[LE MONDE] The border with Jordan, near Jericho. Will there still be Israeli soldiers on the Allenby bridge, which separates the Kingdom from the occupied territories?

[Peres] Yes, for the five years of the transitional period, we will guard the border. We do not want there to be any traffic in arms. As you will appreciate, we have a security problem.

[LE MONDE] Will Yasir 'Arafat be authorized to go and pray in the great mosque of Jerusalem, as he said he wished to?

[Peres] Why should we give advance notice of everything that is difficult or controversial? Let us wait and see.

[LE MONDE] However, in principle, has Israel not always let it be known that access to the holy places was free?

[Peres] We even welcomed some Libyans recently. My little joke. Yes, the principle of free access to the holy places has always been maintained. So why ask me the question? Are you looking for a headline reading "Arafat in Jerusalem"? (laughter,—LE MONDE editor's note.)

[LE MONDE] Not necessarily: But let us move on to the demonstrations by Jewish settlers, which have recently become more frequent. Does the government have a plan for dealing with a possible rebellion?

[Peres] Do you want me to announce that there will be a rebellion? I do not believe it. We are a democratic state, and we will defend democracy with all our force and uncompromisingly, wherever the threat comes from. On the subject of the future of the Jewish areas within the territories, I do not want to make any prophecies. In principle I do not see why if the Arabs can live under non-Arab governments (800,000 Arabs are citizens of Israel), Jews could not live under a non-Jewish government. I do not want to discriminate. For now, I really do not know what they will choose to do.

[LE MONDE] But what can you say to a religious Jew who firmly believes that it is God's will that the holy land be colonized?

[Peres] I would say to him that, while the land may be holy, life is even holier.

[LE MONDE] Nonetheless, the Palestinians are complaining that you have stopped freeing their detainees in an attempt to appease the settlers.

[Peres] Firstly, the freeing of prisoners (Israel is releasing more than 10,000, LE MONDE editor's note) is included in the negotiations. We did not say that we were going to stop releasing them. Please appreciate, it is not that simple; we have our own problems. Today, nobody would understand us if we released people while Israelis are being murdered.

[LE MONDE] Nonetheless, you yourself say that the PLO has nothing to do with these attempted murders.

[Peres] Yes, that is why the freeing of prisoners will continue to be negotiated.

[LE MONDE] On the same subject, today the PLO with which you signed the Declaration of Principles in Washington merely represents the Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah, the former communists of the PPP [Palestine People's Party] and a group within the FDLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine]. All the rest are opposed to the agreement. Is this enough to guarantee peace?

[Peres] First of all, I believe that the number of Palestinians in the PLO has increased since the signing. Perhaps more so on the West Bank of the River Jordan than in Gaza, but the PLO has a majority everywhere. Secondly, what other solution could there be? The Islamic fundamentalists of Hamas?

Bank Establishes Ties with Moroccan National Bank

TA1511185593 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 15 Nov 93 p 18

[Report by 'Eran Solomon]

[Text] Bank Hapo'alim has recently concluded a move to establish relations (including the transfer of documents of import, export and other deals) with Banque Marocaine de Commerce Exterieur of Morocco.

This is the first time an official national Moroccan bank establishes correspondence ties with an Israeli bank.

The Banque Marocaine is owned by the Moroccan Government, is the largest in this country, and the most active in its foreign trade.

Bank Hapo'alim stresses that the contacts with the Moroccan bank go beyond the correspondence ties, which have been existing for several month with another Moroccan bank, the privately-owned Banque Commerciale du Maroc. According to the bank, based on these contacts, the Banque Marocaine decided to expand its ties with other Israeli banks.

Committee Approves Additional Funds for Settlements

TA1611140293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] The Knesset Finance Committee today approved state investments in the territories, allowing the transfer of additional 100 million shekels from the reserve budgets to the Construction and Housing Ministry budget. Our correspondent Eytan Almog says that some 5 million shekels of this sum is earmarked for the completion of water and sewage infrastructure works in settlements

in the territories. Likud Knesset Members Mikha'el Eytan and Ron Nahman said that the finance minister has pledged that the money will also serve to complete the infrastructure of 1,400 housing units, which will be sold on the free market.

King To Inaugurate New House of Representatives 23 Nov

JN1611104293 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 16 Nov 93 p 1

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn is scheduled to deliver the speech from the throne when he inaugurates the ordinary term of the 12th House of Representatives next Tuesday [23 November]. His majesty's speech will address Arab and world developments and the peace process, as well as the Jordanian Government's Arab and international policies.

Upon His Majesty King Husayn's departure from the house building, the deputies will hold their first session under deputy Shaykh 'Abd- al-Baqi Jammu, in his capacity as the oldest member. The deputies will be sworn in and a committee formed to draft a response to the speech from the throne. The deputies will then elect a speaker. [passage omitted]

French Foreign Minister Arrives in Amman

JN1811160893 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1534 GMT 18 Nov 94

[Text] Amman, 18 Nov (PETRA)—French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe arrived in Amman this afternoon on a brief visit to Jordan. He will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn and a number of senior officials on developments in the peace process and relations between the two friendly countries.

Received by King Husayn

JN1811161193 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Amman, 18 Nov (PETRA)—In the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Majesty King Husayn received French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe at the Royal Hashemite Court today. During the meeting, views were exchanged on various regional and international issues and the latest developments in the peace process and ways to advance it to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

They also reviewed bilateral relations and ways of cementing and promoting them.

Chechen President Arrives, Received by al-Majali

JN1611195793 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] His Excellency President Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the Chechen Republic, arrived in Amman this evening. He was welcomed at the airport by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and several civilian and military officials.

Dr. al-Majali and the guest president exchanged views on the means of promoting ties between Jordan and the Chechen Republic in various areas. The president commended Jordan's support for the Chechen Republic and the efforts made by the Hashemite Jordanian Charity Organization in this regard.

The president of Chechenya will leave for Sudan tomorrow at the end of a brief visit to Jordan.

Meets With King, Crown Prince

JN1711165793 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Dzhokhar Dudayev, president of the autonomous Chechen Republic, who is currently paying a private visit to Jordan, at the Royal Hashemite Court today. The meeting was attended by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, and Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

King Husayn Decorates Turkish Chief of Staff

JN1711181893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Turkish Chief of Staff General Dogan Gures at the Royal Hashemite Court today. During the meeting, various issues of bilateral interest were discussed. His majesty bestowed the Military Order of Merit of the First Class on the guest general.

The meeting was attended his Highness Prince Talal Bin-Muhammad, the military secretary of his majesty the king and Staff General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his aide.

Earlier today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, the prime minister and defense minister, received the Turkish chief of staff in his office.

During the meeting, they reviewed the existing cooperation between the two fraternal countries in various fields. They stressed the need to promote this cooperation in the interest of the two peoples.

The prime minister also reviewed the peace process in the Middle East and Jordan's stand on it, which is based on the need to achieve a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

Staff General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, received General Dogan Gures and his accompanying delegation this morning. The guest was accorded an official welcome at the General Command Headquarters.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff met in his office with the guest general. They reviewed the situation in the region in general, its strategic importance, and the humanitarian role that the Jordanian Armed Forces are playing to maintain peace and security in various parts of the world. They also reviewed ways to cooperate and

coordinate in various training areas and issues of mutual interest. The guest and his accompanying delegation listened to a military briefing on the development and organization of the Armed Forces in various fields.

Crown Prince Said To Urge Lifting of Iraqi Blockade

JN1711161793 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 11 Nov 93 pp 1, 6

[Text] Amman, INA—Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan has called for pooling efforts to lift the economic blockade imposed on Iraq. This came in a statement in Amman yesterday when he received the directors of Arab news agencies—from Yemeni, Palestinian, Omani, and Jordanian news agencies—and the deputy editor in chief of INA.

He said: Based on UNICEF reports, this blockade led to the death of a large number of Iraqi children under five years of age.

An INA correspondent in Amman quoted Prince Hasan as saying that the economic blockade imposed on Iraq has caused immense harm to the economies of Jordan, Iran, Turkey, and other world states. He noted that disturbances in Turkey are, to some extent, due to the growing rates of unemployment, particularly in the eastern regions in Turkey, as a result of the continuation of the economic blockade on Iraq.

Prince Hasan spoke about the deep-rooted and historic fraternal relations between Iraq and Jordan. He said that this constitutes a basic element in the future of the Arab and Islamic identity. He stressed that Iraq constitutes strategic depth for Jordan and the Arab countries adjacent to occupied Palestine, and that these countries constitute strategic depth for Iraq. He said that Jordanian-Iraqi relations have continued throughout history, and that they are not affected by rumors aimed at casting doubts over them.

The Jordanian crown prince urged the Arab news agencies to promote cooperation and to exchange information among themselves to serve joint Arab interests.

Directors of the Arab news agencies are currently on a visit to Jordan at the invitation of the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY to observe the parliamentary elections.

Central Bank Chief on Palestinian Economic Cooperation

JN1611144493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Nov 93 pp 1, 34

[Excerpts] Central Bank Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi says that Jordan's economic cooperation with the occupied Arab territories is best reflected in the draft Jordanian-Palestinian Economic Cooperation Agreement and the bilateral peace talks that seek to reopen branches of Jordanian banks in the occupied territory and to reestablish commercial exchanges free of customs barriers.

Speaking at a panel discussion set up by the Society of Jordanian Businessmen yesterday, Dr. al-Nabulsi noted that the draft agreement calls for cooperation in banking, money, trade, manpower, tourism, investment, health, taxes, agriculture, technology transfers, and the infrastructure. [passage omitted]

The draft calls for instituting a joint monetary and banking committee to formulate common arrangements and policies to monitor currency, exchange rates, bank licensing, and securing Jordanian currency. The committee will also study options for creating a central Palestinian monetary agency. [passage omitted]

Al-Nabulsi said Jordan's Central Bank refused to license the reopening of a Jordanian bank in the occupied territory on the Israeli terms that applied to the reopening of the Cairo-Amman Bank in 1986. A bank willing to start branches in the occupied land must get permission from the Jordanian Central Bank, he noted.

Paper on Need For Arab Coordination, Comprehensive Peace

JN1611114793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Nov 93 pp 1, 25

[Editorial: "True Peace Is Comprehensive, Just Peace"]

[Text] A few days ago, His Majesty King Husayn announced he will visit Damascus and Cairo. Meanwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is reported to be planning a new Middle East tour. All those who have a stake in the peace project seem to be in a race against time to revitalize the peace process and keep the momentum that was in evidence in the wake of the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli accord in mid-September.

Arab coordination at this stage is both a national and pan-Arab imperative, and only Arab coordination can fill the gaps created by a lack of full coordination among the Arab parties in all fields. Unless Middle East peace is comprehensive it will be a mere fragile truce, and unless it is fair, it will be an unhealthy agreement that carries the seeds of its demise.

The projected U.S. secretary of state's visit to the region is an indication that there are obstacles hindering the search for peace in the Middle East, and that it takes a major international effort to surmount them. Furthermore, the United States—as the one remaining superpower—along with the other former superpower that sing the praises of international legitimacy must be reminded that they need to go beyond the lip service they pay to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to bold and sincere action toward their implementation. Short of that, the Arab and Muslim man in the street will continue to ask why it is that international legitimacy is being honored in one place and spurned in another. Another relevant question will continue to be posed: Why is it that the implementation of some UN resolutions is backed by rockets, sanctions, and the murder of

children, while many other resolutions remain unimplemented, just because their implementation would have forced the Zionist enemy's compliance with international legitimacy and would have translated the UN Charter and principles into real action?

All that has happened since Madrid goes to show that it matters less to contend that peace is just around the corner and that peace agreements are ready for signing than to make sure that the peace we are talking about is viable and will prove acceptable to this and the coming generations. Anything that falls short of that is a mere chasing of dreams.

AL-DUSTUR Questions Call To End Arab Boycott

JN1311113793 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Nov 93 pp 1, 30

[Editorial: "Is it Really High Time?"]

[Text] Following his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Washington yesterday, U.S. President Bill Clinton believes that it is high time to end the Arab boycott of Israel as a prelude to achieving a breakthrough in the Middle East peace process. President Clinton also asserted that the United States is eager to promote the peace process and continue the intensive efforts for this purpose.

It is understood from President Clinton's call to end the Arab boycott that this boycott is an obstacle to peace, as if all other issues have been resolved, so the boycott should end, and thus a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace would be achieved in the Middle East.

We understand the U.S. concern for achieving a breakthrough in the peace process. We also understand that such a breakthrough is of interest to President Clinton's administration in view of its role and sponsorship of the peace process, regardless of both its form and at whose expense it might take place.

The U.S. Government and its President are aware that there were reasons behind the creation—and the continuation—of the Arab boycott of Israel. They are also aware that the boycott is an Arab means designed to achieve a just peace and regain the Arab rights, and that once the aspired peace is achieved and all Arab rights are regained, there will be no justification to continue the boycott of Israel and to maintain the barriers which were erected throughout the long years of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

By focusing on both the Arab boycott and the need to remove it, President Clinton ignored numerous Israeli obstacles to the achievement of a breakthrough on the path of the aspired peace. The Arab states committed themselves to ending the boycott if Israel responds to the conditions and bases of peace. We wonder: Is it not high time for Israel to commit itself to full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories in accordance with the principles of international legitimacy and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which constitute the terms of reference of the peace process?

Is it not high time for Israel to recognize both the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights on their occupied homeland's soil and their right to self-determination on their land? It is not high time for Israel to halt the expansionist policy of building settlements in the occupied territories, and stop its practices against the Palestinians in the occupied territories, which have continued despite the signing of the self-rule agreement with the Palestinians? Is it not high time for Israel to release thousands of detainees from the Israeli jails and detention camps? Is it not high time for Israel to abandon its ambitions in East Jerusalem and its control of the holy places which are of concern to all believers in God and the followers of the three monotheistic religions?

It is truly high time to resolve numerous issues obstructing peace. These issues are more important than the Arab boycott of Israel. The call to end the Arab boycott resembles putting the cart before the horse on the path of peace.

We are confident that ignoring many bases of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, neglecting the Israeli obstacles to the peace process, attempting to cast doubts, and fabricating lies on breaching the Arab boycott by this or that Arab side will all yield nothing. This is because all Arab states have affirmed that the boycott of Israel will remain a legitimate right and will be maintained so long as the peace process continues to move in a vicious circle in terms of the ambiguous Israeli policies and the constant Israeli evasion of the requisites of a just, comprehensive, and lasting regional peace. It is high time to force Israel into yielding to the requisites of peace instead of giving it more rewards and gifts in return for nothing.

Hizballah Holds 3 Danes Captive for Several Hours

NC1711205093 Paris AFP in English 2023 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Ba'labakk, Lebanon, Nov 17 (AFP)—Three Danes held Wednesday [17 November] by the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement in the al-Biqa' Valley were freed hours later after Syrian forces intervened, Lebanese police said.

The three men are part of a 40-member delegation of businessmen accompanying the Danish minister for business policy and coordination, Mimi Jakobsen, who arrived Wednesday in Lebanon after a visit to Syria, the police said.

Denmark's ambassador to Lebanon, who resides in Damascus, Christian Oldenburg, was part of the delegation, they added.

The three Danes, who had split up from the group while visiting Ba'labakk's historic sites, were arrested by a Hizballah patrol in the town's souk, or market.

The fundamentalist organization freed the men and returned their cameras but confiscated their films, after contacts by Lebanese internal security forces and the Syrian army which has controlled the Ba'labakk region since 1976.

Hizballah Official Vows To Continue Fight Against Israel

NC1711194093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Muhammad Bishkar report from Beirut]

[Text] The Islamic Resistance today paid its last respects to its martyr Ahmad Dabuq, who lost his life during the military operations against the Zionist occupation troops and their agents in south Lebanon yesterday. The funeral took place in Beirut's southern suburb amid massive popular participation. Representatives from the Islamic and national Lebanese and Palestinian forces took part in the funeral. The participants shouted God is Great and anti-occupation slogans.

After the funeral, Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Nasim Qasim stated that his party will teach Israel a lesson it will never forget. He refused any truce with the Zionist enemy under any circumstances. He stressed that the Islamic nation will not sign a peace treaty with Israel no matter how long it takes and that the nation's freedom can be regained only by fighting the enemy which usurped holy Jerusalem. He added:

[Begin Qasim recording] There will be no letup in the fight against the Zionist enemy and no peace will be concluded with it. The signature on documents is absolutely not binding on us. Even if all conferences decide and all gatherings were unanimous on this [peace], our people want their land, their freedom, and dignity, and all these issues are absolutely nonnegotiable. We will not give up a single inch of our usurped territory, will not accept seeing our political decision mortgaged, and will absolutely not accept being a bargaining chip in anybody's hands. We will make our future with our own hands, our blood, our martyrs, our children, and our women. If we are determined, God Almighty's will will be with us, because our cause is right. God willing, we will be victorious. [end recording]

Aftermath of Israeli Raid Detailed

NC1711131193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] An explosion was heard in Ba'labakk at 1100 today. A column of smoke rose from the Islam radio station [Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed], which was the target of an Israeli raid yesterday. Afterward, anti-aircraft fire was opened up amid suspicion that the explosion was caused by another Israeli raid. But Hizballah sources affirmed that the explosion was caused by a rocket fired during yesterday's raid.

Yesterday's raid on the radio station and the al-Fajr television station, left a shepherd from the Nasrallah family dead. Two people were wounded and taken to the Imam Khomeyni hospital, the two stations were destroyed, and the radio has stopped transmitting. Al-Fajr television has resumed transmission from a reserve station inside the city. Scores of houses in the al-Sharawinah and Hayy al-'Usayrah neighborhoods were damaged in the raids and rocket explosions.

Israel Reportedly Brings 15 Vehicles Into Border Zone

NC1711173193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Guarded calm prevailed in the south and in Western al-Biqa' today, except for flights by Israeli warplanes over Kawkaba, Hasbayya, Qilya, al-Dallafah, Marj 'Uyun, and al-'Urqub.

According to a security source, 15 Israeli vehicles were brought into the Marj 'Uyun region inside the occupied border zone this morning. They were stationed along the al-Tayyibah-Hula-Markaba combat front.

Israeli Gunboats Fire at Palestinian Camp

NC1811071393 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] A security source in Tyre city in the south has reported that an Israeli gunboat fired at the Palestinian camp of al-Rashidiyah for 15 minutes. The Israeli navy forced three fishing boats off Tyre Port to return to port. Later, Israeli gunboats fired in the air off the al-Naqurah coast.

Birri Returns From Vatican Visit, Comments on 'Resistance'

NC1711190193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri returned to Beirut this evening after a visit to Italy during which he met with His Holiness John Paul II and a number of Italian officials.

Speaker Birri pointed out that the purpose of the visit had been to explain the southerners' suffering as a result of the Israeli occupation and to win the Vatican's support. He pointed out that Lebanon possesses the cards of the resistance, solidarity with Syria, and Vatican support.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1715 GMT on 17 November carries a recording of Nabih Birri's statement after he arrived at Beirut airport. Asked about Israel's "new acts of aggression" against Lebanon, Birri answers: "I would like to stress once again that the Lebanese resistance is a result, not a cause of occupation. I salute yesterday's resistance operations, and insist that Lebanon possesses the cards of resistance, solidarity with Syria, and—we now can add—Vatican support."

[Asked to comment on the Israeli prime minister's statement yesterday in which he linked Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon to the disarming of Hizballah, Birri says: "As I said, the resistance of the occupation is a result, not a cause. As long as there is an occupation, our right to resist will continue."]

Cabinet Increases Minimum Wage; Prime Minister Comments

NC1711213093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] The cabinet has decided to increase the minimum wage from 118,000 to 200,000 pounds as of 1 January 1994. Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri made a statement following the cabinet meeting this evening, saying that the pay raise was based on the principle of giving workers a useful raise that, at the same time, would not adversely affect the country's currency and economic status. He pointed out, however, that the workers deserve more than this. He added that the rates given are reasonable ones that will not burden the state budget or adversely affect the currency situation. He urged everyone to respond positively and emphasized that the dollar will not rise against the Lebanese pound.

Labor Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin gave details about the pay rise. He said the minimum wage will be 200,000 pounds and the pay increase will be 70 percent on the first part of the salary, ranging from 1 to 150,000 pounds; 35 percent on the second part of the salary, ranging from 150,001 to 250,000 pounds; and 15 percent on the third part of the salary, which starts at 250,001 pounds and has no ceiling.

He said the wage hikes are limited to salaries and there will be no increase in allowances. He explained that the value of all allowances comprising a percentage of the salary or of the minimum wage will be determined on the basis of the current minimum wage of 118,000 pounds.

Labor Official Assesses 'Unfair' Raise

NC1711215293 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2022 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Interview with General Labor Federation Chairman Ilyas Abu-Rizq by unidentified correspondent in Beirut "a short while ago"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] What is your initial reaction to the Council of Ministers' decisions on the pay raise?

[Abu-Rizq] The General Labor Federation [GLF] regrets tonight's decisions by the Council of Ministers. They are completely unfair to the working class in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The government has called for a responsible position. What is your response?

[Abu-Rizq] A responsible position by whom? It is the government that should adopt a responsible position. What kind of responsible position do they want from us? Do they mean that we should bless the decisions? They did not give the minimum increase. Is this a farce? Indeed, the pay increase shows disdain for the working class and specifically for the GLF. All sides must show responsible positions. The state is responsible, and we are responsible. But when they decide something, they should take the views of the other side into consideration. They never considered our viewpoint. In the end, they did everything as they wanted.

[Correspondent] Can we say that you are now inclined to reject the increase and, consequently, announce a strike?

[Abu-Rizq] The final decision will be made at tomorrow's meeting of the GLF Executive Council. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Through your contacts with the Executive Council members, can you describe the atmosphere?

[Abu-Rizq] In fact, there is overwhelming resentment and general indignation. All the Executive Council members who contacted me are indignant about the decision and the increase; no one is really satisfied. [passage omitted]

French Foreign Minister Juppe, Delegation Pay Visit

Syrian-French Ties Called 'Good'

JN1711193993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1845 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 17 Nov (SANA)—At 1830 today, France's Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and Mrs. Juppe arrived in Damascus on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

On hand to greet them at Damascus International Airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Mrs. al-Shar', Foreign Ministry officials, and the French ambassador and embassy staff.

In statements to SANA, Juppe said he was glad to be visiting Damascus at the invitation of al-Shar' with whom, he noted, he met in New York recently.

He termed Syrian-French relations good and said he always looked forward to still better ties in all areas.

France, he said, wants to see movement in the Middle East peace process. I will ask Syrian officials for an update on the state of Syrian-Israeli negotiations, Juppe added.

Al-Shar' Hopes for 'Useful' Talks

JN1711204693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Excerpts] French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and his wife arrived in Damascus at 1830 today on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

Answering a question, Juppe said that he is not carrying any proposals on the peace process, but that France supports the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, and follows with interest the talks between the parties concerned in this regard.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' welcomed Alain Juppe's visit and expressed his hope that his talks in Damascus will be constructive and useful. He also expressed appreciation for the statement the French Foreign Ministry issued yesterday, which included the French Government's support for withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and stressed the comprehensiveness of the solution. He added that the topics that will be discussed will focus on regional and international issues, and on promoting bilateral ties.

Al-Shar', Juppe Open Official Talks

JN1811070393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Damascus—A round of official talks was held between the Syrian side led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the French side by Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. [passage omitted]

The talks dealt with the situation in the region, particularly with the regard to the peace process. Alain Juppe affirmed the need to implement the Security Council resolutions in order to achieve a complete withdrawal from the Golan and a comprehensive peace in the region. Juppe called for continuing the peace process, underscoring Syria's basic role in this process.

Faruq al-Shar' expressed his satisfaction with France's position and its role in the European arena toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East in accordance with the Madrid formula and in implementation of the related Security Council resolutions.

Both sides expressed their concern to strengthen relations between the two friendly countries.

Al-Asad Receives Juppe 18 Nov

JN1811103793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and his delegation at 1045 today.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the French ambassador in Damascus.

Juppe Terms Talks 'Positive,' Departs

JN1811175993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] At 1045 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and his delegation. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the French ambassador in Damascus attended the session. The French minister communicated greetings from President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Edouard Balladur. The president thanked him and asked him to convey his greetings to the French leaders. They talked about regional developments and the peace process.

Mr. Juppe told the president France has an interest in the Middle East peace process and that his government—inspired by General Charles de Gaulle's policies—envisages an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 if peace is to come to the region.

His excellency the president welcomed an active role by France to direct the peace process toward a just and comprehensive peace.

The French foreign minister and Mrs. Juppe left Damascus this afternoon, concluding a two-day visit to Syria. The Foreign Minister and Mrs. al-Shar' were on hand to see them off, as were the director of the West Europe desk and the director of information at the Foreign Ministry, and the French ambassador and embassy staff.

In predeparture remarks to journalists, Mr. Juppe said: We had thorough discussions with President al-Asad, Vice President Khaddam, and Foreign Minister al-Shar'.

He called his talks extremely useful and positive, and an opportunity for France to reconfirm its interest in more advanced ties with Syria, especially in the economic and cultural spheres. An agreement was reached to set up a meeting of the joint Syrian-French Committee in the spring of 1994. Regional developments, with special emphasis on the peace process, were also discussed. He reiterated French support for the peace process, which he stressed must be pursued without further delay along the lines of the Madrid peace conference. For peace to last, it must be comprehensive, the French minister observed. We would very much like to see all the UN Security Council resolutions implemented, including those envisaging an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights. He described the tension that has prevailed in southern lebanon for the past few days as worrisome.

'Active' French Role in Peace Process Urged

JN1811093093 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Nov 93

[From the press review]

[Text] Writing about the visit to Damascus by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe in order to activate the European role in the peace process in general, and the French role in particular, TISHRIN says: Alain Juppe's visit to Damascus, which is the first leg of a tour of some Arab countries, is an important visit. This indicates the importance of the talks the French minister will hold with Syrian officials, and also the special importance France attaches to Syria's role in the region in light of the strong bilateral ties.

TISHRIN says that Syria can play an important and effective role to reach a just and comprehensive solution in the region, adding that there is a need for Europe to seriously contribute to the search for peace. The paper adds: This is in Europe's interest, because it borders the region and because the effects of developments, events, and reactions in the Middle East will affect Europe in terms of neighborly relations and interests.

TISHRIN highlights France's stand declared prior to Juppe's visit to Syria. This stand stresses that peace cannot be strong or comprehensive unless it covers all states in the region on the basis of Security Council Resolution 242, and without complete Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

TISHRIN says: Juppe's visit to Damascus will give access to Syria's views on the peace process and the resumption of bilateral talks in Washington. TISHRIN stresses that Syria, which always seeks to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, has shown every concern and readiness for cooperation and exerted every effort—and is still doing so—to render the peace process a success.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: As we look for a European role, particularly an active French role vis-a-vis the peace process—on the basis of the international legitimacy resolutions and asking Israel to remove obstacles and withdraw from the occupied territory—we hope that the French minister's talks with the Syrian officials will reinforce bilateral relations in the interest of both peoples.

Iran's Sheykholeslam Calls For Continued Resistance

LD1711174993 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Islamic forces should continue their resistance against the Zionist aggressions as the only way toward establishment of peace in the region, Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab-African Affairs Husayn Sheykholeslam said in Damascus today.

He told Syrian Vice-President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam in a meeting that the Zionist aggressions should be repelled and the usurper regime of Quds should be expelled from the regional territories if peace and stability are to be established in the region.

Sheykholeslam also lauded the latest victories of the Islamic resistance against the Zionist troops in southern Lebanon.

Khaddam in reply pointed to the plots of the Zionist regime and said the government and people of Syria would abide by their principles and ideals as long as the Zionist enemy continues to keep the occupied territories.

Syria has no fear of the various maneuvers of the Zionist regime, Khaddam added.

Khaddam Meets Yemeni Presidential Council Member

JN1611200393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1755 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] Damascus, 16 Nov (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Salim al-Salih, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council, at 1800 today. The Yemeni ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Talks during the meeting dealt with the regional situation in general and the situation in Yemen in particular.

Al-Ahmar Receives Yemeni Socialist Party Official

JN1711133993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party [ASBP], this morning received Mr. Salim Salih Muhammad, his Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] counterpart, and member of the Yemeni Presidential Council. Also joined by Mr. Muhammad 'Abdah Shutfah, the Yemeni ambassador in

Damascus, the talks dealt with ASBP-YSP relations, Arab developments, and matters of common interest to the two parties. They also discussed the Middle East peace process and the respective positions of the parties concerned. Al-Ahmar stressed the constants from which Syria proceeds in relation to the peace process and the obstacles hindering its progress toward the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace thanks to Israel's partiality to separate solutions and failure to be bound by the peace process' terms of reference, as well as its refusal to implement relevant UN resolutions.

Danish Deputy Prime Minister, Delegation Pay Visit

Official Talks Open

JN1411190793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] This morning, Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received Mrs. Mimi Jakobsen, deputy prime minister and minister of coordination in Denmark. The meeting was attended by Dr. Tawfiq Isma'il, assistant minister of state for planning affairs, and Christian Valdemar Oldenburg, Denmark's ambassador to Syria. The talks dealt with bilateral relations, with special emphasis on economics.

At noon today, an official round of talks was held at the Syrian Central Bank building, cochaired by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Mrs. Jakobsen. The talks were attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, Syria's minister of state for planning affairs; the assistant to the minister of planning; the Syrian Central Bank governor; representatives of the concerned ministries, as well as the head and members of the Syrian chambers of commerce and industry. Attending the talks for Denmark were the official and economic delegation accompanying Mrs. Jakobsen and the Danish ambassador in Damascus.

At the start of the session, Dr. al-'Imadi welcomed Mrs. Jakobsen and her delegation to Syria and noted with satisfaction the degree of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Al-'Imadi stressed the importance of such meetings between officials and economists of the two countries to reinforce these ties in the best interest of the two sides and to open new horizons for economic cooperation. Syria is a small country, al-'Imadi noted, but it is rich in resources, having opted for political and economic plurality since the 1970 Corrective Movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad. Syria, al-'Imadi added, encourages local and external investment and to that end has enacted the necessary legislation.

Al-'Imadi also gave an account of the development of the Syrian economy and called for boosting joint investment and the volume of trade between the two countries.

Mrs. Jakobsen thanked Dr. al-'Imadi for the warm welcome accorded her and her delegation in Syria, which she termed a cradle of civilizations. She noted with satisfaction the state of friendship and cooperation between Syria and Denmark. She stressed the need to develop these relations and to boost bilateral trade and cooperation.

The two sides also talked about bilateral relations, with special emphasis on economic ties and agreed on the need to open up new horizons for bilateral cooperation.

Al-Zu'bi Receives Jakobsen

JN1411201493 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Mimi Jakobsen, Danish deputy prime minister and minister of coordination, and her delegation at 1800 today. Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, the assistant to the minister of planning, and the Danish ambassador to Syria attended the session. They explored ways to boost bilateral ties, especially in trade.

Khaddam Confers With Jakobsen

JN1511162693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Nov

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received Mimi Jakobsen, Danish deputy prime minister and minister of coordination, and her delegation at 1000 today. The meeting was attended by Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr. Tawfiq Isma'il, assistant minister for planning affairs; and the Danish ambassador in Damascus.

Talks centered on the international situation, the Middle East situation, the latest developments in the peace process, and bilateral relations.

Jakobsen, Delegation Depart Damascus

JN1711152293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Mimi Jakobsen, deputy prime minister and minister of coordination in Denmark, left Damascus this morning, concluding a four-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. On hand to see her off were Dr. Salim Yasin, the deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, the minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, the minister of state for planning affairs; and the Danish ambassador and embassy staff.

Information Minister Discusses Peace Process

PM1611114793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Nov 93 p 6

[Interview with Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din in Damascus; date not given]

[Text] ['Alam-al-Din] How would you assess the present U.S role in bolstering the peace process? And do you

believe the U.S. Administration is playing the role of a full partner of not? And what is your opinion of this role?

[Salman] Since the announcement of the U.S. initiative in the spring of 1991 the previous and present U.S. Administrations have been making serious efforts to achieve peace in the region.

After the convening of the Madrid conference and the Washington negotiations, the United States and the world sensed that the Arabs were not the obstacle to the implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, on which the U.S. initiative was based. It was Israel, which is maneuvering to evade the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace, trying to reduce it to separate deals aimed at leapfrogging the land-for-peace principle and the principle of the impermissibility of seizing the territories of others by force.

As a result of the Israeli position obstructing the peace process, the U.S. Administration announced its role as a full partner in the peace process, thus emphasizing its eagerness not to let its initiative collapse or its credibility in the Middle East crack, especially as it has qualitative relations with Israel which qualify it to compel any Israeli government to accept the requirement of peace. We believe that Washington is capable of reactivating its role more substantially to achieve real progress on all tracks.

['Alam-al-Din] President Bill Clinton said the no real peace can be achieved in the Middle East without an Israeli-Syrian agreement. Are the Americans applying this conviction on the ground or not, and how?

[Salman] All I can say in this connection is that President Clinton's administration is committed to achieving progress in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. This can be noticed in the recent telephone conversations which U.S. President Bill Clinton held with President Hafiz al-Asad and in the diplomatic moves conducted in this connection.

['Alam-al-Din] It is said in Britain at present that during his recent visit to Damascus British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd gave you assurances about Israel's willingness to cooperate with regard to a solution. What are the nature of these assurances, and how do you view the European role in the peace process?

[Salman] In the sixth round of bilateral negotiations in Washington our delegation submitted a working paper which the United States and the European states described as positive, in contrast to Israel, which is causing a clamor to evade discussing the fundamental issues on the basis of compliance with the rules of international law.

I cited this question because Israel has not so far displayed any serious willingness to cooperate.

As for the British foreign secretary's visit to Damascus, Syria has always welcomed a European role that contributes to resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and establishing a comprehensive and just peace. But Israel has always opposed the European role.

['Alam-al-Din] Syria has linked its participation in the next round of negotiations with Israel's announcement of its willingness to withdraw completely from the Golan. Does this mean that the peace process will collapse completely if Israel refuses to make such a pledge, and what will be the alternative if the process collapses?

[Salman] We have emphasized our commitment to the peace process and the need to secure favorable conditions to ensure the success of any new round of negotiations in Washington. Because the collapse of the peace process means the collapse of the UN resolutions and the U.S. initiative's failure—which is a challenge to the international will vis-a-vis peace.

['Alam-al-Din] There is talk in Britain about a solution plan for the Golan problem based on keeping the present Golan Heights under the supervision of multinational forces. Do you agree to this, or do you have another opinion?

[Salman] That plan and the other plans promoted from time to time are merely air bubbles whose objectives are known to everyone. We participated in the Madrid negotiations in accordance with foundations specified in the U.S. initiative, namely implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which both stipulate the impermissibility of seizing the territories of others by force and the land for peace principle. The peace question in essence is Israel's announcement of its withdrawal from all the Arab territories it occupied by force.

['Alam-al-Din] Is there a deadline specified by you for a peaceful solution, and if this deadline expires, will you declare war on the Gaza-Jericho agreement, and how and where will you fight it?

[Salman] When we described work for the sake of achieving a just and comprehensive peace as a battle, it means that this battle is conducted by various means to achieve this peace, to which we are committed and over which we do not bargain. We do not consider the Gaza-Jericho agreement the crux of the problem, despite the dangers it has brought to the Palestinian people.

['Alam-al-Din] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' warned Jordan of domestic problems if it moves toward a separate solution. Some people interpreted this as a warning to Jordan. What is your opinion?

[Salman] What was attributed to Faruq al-Shar' is inaccurate. Because we do not accept interference in the Arab states' internal affairs. And we care about Arab coordination and Arab solidarity in all spheres. At the same time we warn of the dangers of slipping onto the road of

separate settlements, because it weakens this or that Arab party and harms the just and comprehensive peace process.

['Alam-al-Din] There has been much talk about a sudden and unilateral Israeli withdrawal in Lebanon with a view to isolating Syria. What truth is there in this, and how will you act with regard to the Israelis and U.S. attempts to contain the Lebanese position?

[Salman] That is a hypothetical question and unrealistic, as far as I know, especially as Israel continues to evade implementation of Security Council Resolution 425, which urges it to withdraw immediately from southern Lebanon.

['Alam-al-Din] There are numerous speculations with regard to the battle to topple the Gaza-Jericho agreement on Lebanese territory: in the form of violent incidents, assassinations, and an escalation of the resistance. What is your opinion?

[Salman] We have clearly announced that it is the Palestinian people with their various national institutions which decide the future of the Gaza-Jericho agreement. This means that Lebanon is not an arena for this agreement, which some people may try to market here or there for unclean reasons.

['Alam-al-Din] The statements of some politicians in Lebanon give the impression that a confederation between Lebanon and Syria may be proposed.

[Salman] Lebanon and Syria are fraternal states bound by ties of brotherhood, cooperation, joint history, and mutual respect for the two states' sovereignty. When the Lebanese and the Syrians decide on something like unity, it will not be secret or subject to speculation.

['Alam-al-Din] Why does President Husni Mubarak continue to announce that he expects progress to be achieved on the Syrian-Israeli track before the end of the year? What is your opinion of these expectations?

[Salman] President Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak are bound by staunch ties whose positive results have impacted on the two fraternal countries and the Arab situation in general. In the light of these ties, President Husni Mubarak is exerting continued efforts for the sake of achieving progress on all tracks, especially the Syrian-Israeli track. Because of his awareness and belief that a comprehensive peace cannot be achieved without Syria.

['Alam-al-Din] What do you expect the U.S. Administration to do to compel Israel to pledge to withdraw completely? And are Secretary Warren Christopher's visits to the region sufficient, or do you believe a summit meeting between Presidents al-Asad and Clinton is a must? And what truth is there in the reports that a summit between the two presidents will be held in Washington?

[Salman] I have already answered the first part of the question. It is useful to say here that the United States is capable of reactivating its role more substantially to make the peace process a success so as to benefit all parties to the conflict.

For our part, we will continue to cooperate with the United States. We have supported its efforts since the announcement of former President George Bush's initiative for the sake of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

['Alam-al-Din] Some people say that an understanding has been reached between you and Israel on specific issues, including mutual security arrangements. What truth is there is in this? And what are the features of these arrangements? And did the Israelis agree that these arrangements be balanced on both sides of the border, as you requested?

[Salman] All that happened between us and Israel was announced in the last round of negotiations held in Washington. No meeting has been held between us since the suspension of the negotiations. The Madrid formula defined the negotiation course, and we are committed to this formula, which is based on the international authority, that is Resolutions 242 and 338.

['Alam-al-Din] Do you believe that the Lebanese track in the negotiations is in some way "easier" than the other tracks? And for example, can practical progress be achieved in this connection after the announcement of a Syrian-Israeli Declaration of Principles?

[Salman] Israel's acceptance of the land for peace principle would mean its willingness to give up the Arab territories it is occupying. It is obvious that Israel's decision to do so on the Syrian track would be accompanied by its decision to withdraw from the south [of Lebanon]. Ending the Israeli occupation is the problem facing peace, as ending the Israeli occupation would open the door wide to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Afghanistan

Sudan's al-Turabi To Mediate Between Hekmatyar, Mas'ud

JN1811065793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Ahmad Idris dispatch from Islamabad]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Hasan al-Turabi, the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood in Sudan, has arrived in Islamabad. He is expected to visit Afghanistan to mediate between Golboddin Hekmatyar and Ahmed Shah Mas'ud during the next few days. Observers believe that al-Turabi's mediation, which has been preceded by many mediations, is not expected to have significant results because no mediation, however powerful, would resolve the numerous differences among the Afghan factions.

Hekmatyar's Forces Attack Tagab With Long-Range Weapons

LD1011165093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Nov 93

[Text] Hekmatyar's forces fired long-range weapons today at Tagab district's residential areas as a result of which loss of life and material damage have been inflicted.

Quoting a Defense Ministry source, a military correspondent reported that Hekmatyar's forces, which were severely defeated in the Tagab battle, fired heavy weapons at residential areas in Tagab district. The shooting, which is going on from Sarobi to Naghlu, has caused losses of civilian lives in Tagab.

India

Minister Visits Shrine, Denies Agreement on Resolution

BK1711132793 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] The union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said that peaceful resolution of the Hazratbal shrine episode will help in further normalization of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir state. He was addressing a press conference in Srinagar today after visiting the Hazratbal shrine complex which was freed of the militants' hold yesterday morning. Mr. Chavan said that people of Kashmir valley are disillusioned with militancy and want normalization of situation. He said violence is not in the interest of anyone.

The home minister denied that there was an agreement on resolution of the Hazratbal shrine tangle and said that the militants came out of the shrine of their own. Mr. Chavan said that religious places must not be used for irreligious purposes.

Army Lifts Cordon; Arms Recovered

BK1811035593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] In Srinagar, the Army cordon around the Hazratbal shrine has been lifted and the shrine is being opened to the public today. AIR [All India Radio] Srinagar correspondent Ajit Singh reports after visiting the shrine area that the Jammu and Kashmir Police have again taken over the guard duties inside the shrine complex. The BSF [Border Security Force] has established some pickets near the entry point outside the complex to help the state police. Our correspondent reports that the reopening of the shrine was preceded by a thorough checkup of the entire complex during the last two days. It led to the recovery of three more caches of sophisticated weapons and explosives abandoned or hidden by the militants before they vacated the shrine early Tuesday [16 November] morning. These recoveries were besides the weapons laid down by militants in the veranda of the shrine before they came out and gave up themselves to the law.

35 Detainees Released by Police

BK1811120493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] In Srinagar, 35 of the 65 persons who came out of the Hazratbal Shrine and gave themselves up to the law on Tuesday [16 November] were released from the protective custody of police this afternoon. The additional secretary, Mr. Mahmudur Rahman, told our Srinagar correspondent that the released persons were found innocent. They were handed over to their family members. Mr. Rahman said investigations have been launched to find out whether the remaining 30 persons who are still in custody are involved in terrorism.

The Hazratbal Shrine was reopened to the public today after the army had lifted its cordon around the shrine complex. A sizeable number of people mainly from localities adjoining the Hazratbal Shrine visited the shrine today. Several shops were opened in the area. The director general of police, Mr. Mahendra Sabharwal, told our correspondent that about 600 families which were shifted from Dhobi Ghat locality adjoining the shrine to the regional engineering college campus have started returning to their homes.

Talks With Iran on Gas Pipeline Begin

LD1611150493 Tehran IRNA in English 1953 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 15, IRNA—A fifteen member high-level Iranian delegation, led by Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh started deliberations Monday with Indian officials on New Delhi's request for a gas pipeline from Qeshm Islands in the Persian Gulf. The Indian side to the talks is being led by the country's petroleum secretary, T. N. R. Rao.

Speaking at the inaugural talks, Aqazadeh said the gas pipeline was one of the most important items on both Tehran and New Delhi's agenda, and expressed hope that both countries would get to good conclusions on this issue. He said the issue of India being used as a transit point for gas supply to neighbouring South Asian nations like Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh will also be discussed during the deliberations. He also said that a "lasting cooperation" between India and Iran is already existing in the crude oil business and hoped that both countries will find ways to further expand it during the talks.

On the same occasion, the Indian minister, Capt Sharma said India was keen to put into execution the projects for transmission of gas from Iran to India as India had a vast and growing market. The Indian minister expressed hope that the presentation of the joint recommendations of the study by the officials of the two countries would provide thrust to the early implementation of this important project.

Both Iranian and Indian petroleum experts have already prepared the feasibility report of laying an overland pipeline, which will be much cheaper than laying one under the sea.

Broken Hill Petroleum, an Australian company, and Matt McDonald, a British company have offered to carry out the laying of pipeline which would incur an estmated dlrs. 5 billion, to be shared jointly by India and Iran. India has already signed a memorandum of understanding with the Oman Oil Company for laying a gas pipeline.

The gas reserves of Oman is estimated around 500 billion cubic meter as against the Iranian reserves of above 20 trillion cubic meter. Besides that, the cost of laying of pipeline from Iran is much cheaper that the laying of the one from Oman.

At the same time the prices quoted by Oman are much higher than those quoted by Iran. Taking these factors into considerations, Indian authorities are likely to be more keen for the Iranian deal, still awaiting a formal agreement.

Accord Signed With France Cooperation in Space Field

BK1711155693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Indian Space Research Organization [ISRO] has signed an agreement with the French space agency, CNES, for cooperation in the field of exploration and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes. The ISRO chairman, Professor U.R. Rao, and the CNES president, Prof. (Rene Pelaf), signed the agreement in Bangalore today. The agreement will strengthen the cooperation between India and France in satellite and balloon programs, remote sensing satellites, meteorology, and communications studies, besides operation of satellite ground stations and mission management.

Iran

Tehran Reports Expulsion of Three Swedish Diplomats

NC1811065993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry summoned the Swedish ambassador and stressed to him that three Swedish diplomats in Tehran should leave Iran over acts that are not diplomatic. In a meeting between the Foreign Ministry chief of protocol and the Swedish ambassador in Tehran, the Swedish diplomats' incompatible acts were listed and he was told that the diplomats have been identified as personae non grata by the Islamic Republic of Iran and should leave Tehran.

The Swedish Government has told three employees of the Iranian Embassy in Stockholm to leave Sweden.

U.S. Allegations of Involvement in Somalia Refuted

NC1811070993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's permanent UN representative has refuted allegations by U.S. officials of Iranian involvement in the Somali people's anti-American attacks. A statement published by the Iranian delegation at the United Nations yesterday stresses that Washington's accusations against Tehran are baseless and far from the truth.

An American official said recently that Iranian car explosives experts may have arrived in the Somali capital.

The statement published by the permanent UN representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran states that Tehran considers these accusations to be an insolent plot and an effort to divert the world from the defeat of Washington's military operations in Somalia.

Larijani Views U.S., UN Behavior Over Libya Sanctions

NC1811081993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Following intensifying American political pressure, the UN Security Council approved a resolution under which severe trade sanctions will be imposed on Libya if it refuses to hand over two people accused of involvement in the Pan Am explosion to the United States or Britain. Since the European members of the Security Council would suffer economically from these sanctions, the United States has excluded European oil deals with Libya from the resolution, in a bid to gain the support of its European allies. Russia was expected to veto the resolution because of Libya's $4-billion debt to

it, but, following promises by Western governments of an interest-free loan, Russia voted for the resolution.

Strongly criticizing the resolution's approval, Libya's UN representative said it shows the Security Council is acting as a tool. Libya has repeatedly stated that it is ready to hand over the two people accused of involvement in the Pan Am explosion to any Western country but the United States or Britain for trial to clarify the truth behind the U.S. accusations. But Washington and London have rejected this proposal.

We went to the French Embassy in Tehran and asked why Western governments disagree with the proposal. French Embassy spokesman (Manville) refused to participate in a radio interview, but gave us his written answers to our questions. Asked why France voted for the resolution, he said: We voted for it at the request of our country's Justice Ministry. We informed the Libyan officials of this request, but received no answer from them.

The French Embassy spokesman in Tehran would not say why, if the Security Council members support a peaceful solution, they oppose Libya's request to try the two in another country. He was not ready to give any details in answer to this question.

Our correspondent asked an international law expert about the legal aspects of the issue. Mohammad Javad Larijani believes:

[Begin Larijani recording] The issue should be viewed carefully. There is an accusation of involvement in terrorism. Then there is the handling of this accusation. One government or several governments are acting as judges and have accused another government. They issued a sentence, which they themselves carried out.

I believe this behavior cannot be legally justified, even on the basis of the UN Charter. But it has a very clear political justification. The Americans want to create a world guardianship or management system headed by the Western countries and want to head this exclusive club. To organize efforts to achieve this objective, the United Nations too should change its behavior and its framework. And the Americans have started both these processes. In other words, they have started a series of changes in behavior, as in Somalia and in their approach to Libya. They have also started noteworthy efforts to theoretically change the framework of the United Nations.

Their thinking is very simple: An issue should first take shape and then ways to regulate the laws concerning it should be studied. The Americans want to intensify their and the Western club's leadership and then create the necessary legal system for it. And their slogans are peace, security, the fight against terrorism, human rights, and democracy. All these are a facade.

We are facing behavior, as in Libya's case, in which a very specific and significant objective is being pursued. This objective is to create a system of world guardianship and a network of world rule headed by the West and the Western governments' exclusive club and led by America. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Rejects UN Human Rights Report

LD1811123293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran has declared that the report of the special rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Commission on the human rights situation in Iran is a useless and baseless fiction motivated by ill-intentioned political objectives. As such, it has strongly rejected the report.

According to a Central News Unit report, in a statement the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has stressed that world public opinion is not oblivious to the misuse of human rights for the settlement of political and international scores. This is especially so when the false defenders of human rights prevent the nation of Bosnia-Herzegovina from applying its legitimate defense of rights against merciless slaughter by the Serbs, and also when these false defenders of human rights encourage the Zionist regime to continue its crimes and violence and to go on with its occupation policy. World public opinion is disgusted with such acts and hates them.

The same statement asserts in part: Repetition of the same baseless and useless accusations, as well as forgeries—to which baselessness Mr. Galindo Pohl has formally admitted in his previous reports—is direct and uninvestigated reporting of the blatant lies of dependent, mercenary, and terroristic grouplets. The records of some these grouplets in the oppression, slaughter, and torture of the people of Iran during the period of monarchical tyranny and also the record of others in blind terrorism and oppression of the people of the north and south of Iraq during recent years are not hidden from anyone.

Fictitious and incomplete quoting from printed material in the domestic press, as well as a foolish resort to the sacred principles of Islamic tenets—especially those agreed by all sects of Islam—and, finally, use of the laws and regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran are all indicative of the fact that the rapporteur has been trying hard to compile a few pages to produce a report aimed at arriving at predetermined results rather than engaging in impartial investigation.

Based on the supreme teachings of Islam, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers respect for human rights and the lofty character of mankind in all material and spiritual dimensions as a fundamental duty for all governments. According to this belief, the Islamic Republic of Iran, without paying attention to any propaganda hue

and cry, will continue its efforts to strengthen the principles which guarantee support for the rights of all citizens.

While refuting all the baseless accusations made by the special rapporteur and the international propaganda surrounding the report, the Islamic Republic of Iran once again emphasizes that using human rights as an instrument for exerting political pressure on the Islamic Republic will not only prevent those who resort to such tools from attaining their illegitimate political objectives, but will also lead to human rights organizations becoming more discredited. As the majority of the countries of the world stressed in the course of the international conference on human rights, the only way to lend real support to human rights and promote such principles throughout the world is to end the practices of having double standards and exploiting human rights issues for political objectives. This process of supporting human rights should be accomplished by open, independent, and impartial international mechanisms.

The Islamic Republic of Iran once again declares its full readiness to participate and cooperate actively and constructively in such a collective global endeavor.

Five Public Hangings Held in Northwest

NC1711164693 Paris AFP in English 1341 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov 17 (AFP)—Five men convicted of rape, murder and armed robbery have been hanged in public in northwestern Iran, KAYHAN [as received] newspaper reported Wednesday [17 November].

The five, who had been sentenced to death by a revolutionary court, were hanged early Tuesday in a public square in Bukan, a town in west Azerbaijan Province, it said.

It was the second public hanging event reported in the region in the past three weeks. Three people were executed in the town of Orumiyeh late last month after they were found guilty of murder and terrorizing the public.

Four convicted robbers were also executed in April in Sirjan, southwest Iran.

Armed robbery and rape are crimes punishable by death in Iran.

DPK Claims Regime Killed Five Kurdish 'Combatants'

NC1711095293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Statement issued by the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kordestan on 15 November]

[Text] Dear compatriots, O combatant people of Kordestan: It is with great regret that the Political Bureau of the Democratic Party of Kordestan [DPK] announces that the criminals of the Islamic Republic of Iran have killed five worthy combatants of the DPK and the Kurdish people in Iranian Kordestan. At 1030 on Sunday 14 November, as DPK combatants returned by public transport from Darbandikhan in Iraqi Kurdistan to their headquarters, an antitank mine exploded and martyred five righteous children of our party.

The victims of the clerical regime's terrorism were: comrade Shahrokh Moradi from Sanadaj; comrade Anvar Ebrahimi from (Sangisar) village in [name indistinct] in Sanandaj; comrade Salah Moradi from Sanandaj; comrade Taher Manuchehri from (Nodcheh) in Gwraman; and comrade [name indistinct] from the village of (Mehrabi) in [place-name indistinct] in Sanandaj.

As people in Kordestan, throughout Iran, and elsewhere know, the reactionary clerical regime has been up to mischief in Iraqi Kurdistan since 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993]. Within the framework of its warmongering operations, it has shelled areas inhabited by Iranian Kurdish refugees, DPK headquarters, and villages and farmlands of Iraqi Kurds hundreds of times using artillery and long-range missiles. But the reactionaries who have not achieved their inhuman objectives through these methods and who have not halted the struggle by the Kurdish people in Iranian Kordestan or by the DPK have resorted to other methods of murder and, during the past few months, hatched and implemented dozens of terrorist plans. But, unfortunately, the Islamic Republic's [word indistinct] succeeded in their latest terrorist plan and deprived the DPK of some of its worthy combatants.

Each of the five who fell victim to the criminal acts by the servants of [word indistinct] had a glowing record of combat and of efforts to vindicate the rights and freedom of the people of Kordestan. The demise of heroes such as Shahrokh Moradi, Anvar Ebrahimi, Salah Moradi, Taher Manuchehri, and Rashid [name indistinct] is a great loss for the DPK and for the freedom-seeking movement of the people of Kordestan.

Condemning this (dastardly) crime and all the regime's terrorist acts, we extend our condolences to the respected families of these martyrs, to their (comrades), and to the people of Kordestan. We mourn with them. We also renew our pledge to the pure souls of these martyrs whose memories will live on, to their respected families, and to the children of the Kurdish people that the blood shed by these dear ones will not weaken the determination of the democratic combatants and that the struggle to fulfill the lofty goals of the martyrs will continue until victory.

We again call on officials of the rule in Iraqi Kurdistan and on the political organizations in this part of Kurdistan to (carefully observe) the clerical regime's (inhuman) activities and to prevent (the repetition) of such crimes.

[Words indistinct] the driver of the private car, Karim [name indistinct], was also martyred. Expressing our

regrets over the demise of this hard-working man, we extend our condolences to his family and relatives [words indistinct].

Death to terrorism and nurturing terrorism.

[Signed] The DPK's Political Bureau
[Dated] 15 November 1993

'Intelligence Center' To Open in Madrid

NC1711142893 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 15 Nov 93 p 7

[Text] Madrid will soon become the first Iranian intelligence center in Europe instead of Bonn. Bahram Kazemi, the latest Iranian ambassador to Ireland, is preparing to leave for Madrid to assume his post after receiving training in Iran for six months. The choice of Madrid instead of Bonn followed the media uproar caused by the visit to Germany by Minister of Security and Intelligence 'Ali Fallahian and his numerous and secret meetings with German intelligence personnel. The task of the new post in Madrid is to supervise all Iranian intelligence activities in Europe.

17 Killed in Antonov Crash; Investigation Continues

LD1711200793 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—The Civil Aviation Organization here today announced that all the 17 persons aboard the Russian-made cargo plane had been killed in the crash in the Jupar heights on Monday [15 November].

KEYHAN DAILY today printed a facsimile of the pilot's I.D. card which identified him as Victor Russie [name as received]. The pilot had requested Kerman airport for an emergency landing before the crash. The airport had granted the permission.

According to an agreement with Dubai-based Globe Trotters Tourism and Cargo, their planes routinely land at Kerman airport for refuelling.

Hoseyn Divsalar, director of the Kerman meteorological department, ruled out the possibility of poor vision as a possible cause for the crash. He said that there was no change in the weather in the area from 18:00 local time Monday till Tuesday, and hence no chance for poor vision coming into play.

The Russian plane which belonged to the Canadian Atlantair was flying to Tashkent from Dubai when she crashed into the Jupar mountains at 19:04 Monday.

Civil Aviation Organization has said in a statement that the cause of the crash is under investigation by experts.

Experts say the pilot's unfamiliarity with the route as well as the geographical location of the area might have been the reason for the crash.

KEYHAN pointed out that it was difficult to retrieve the bodies from the bottom of the Jupar valley.

Commentary Views Problems of PLO-Israeli Accord

NC1511074093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Commentary from the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] The PLO-Israeli talks on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho self-rule plan will resume in Cairo today. Two weeks ago, differences of opinion or varying assessments by the Israeli and the Palestinian sides on the text of the 'Arafat-Tel Aviv accord led to a suspension of the talks. Egypt's mediation during Foreign Minister Amr Musa's visit to Israel activated the talks on a limited level and only within the framework of the PLO-Israeli coordination committee.

However, the negotiations are facing many obstacles that have slowed the process of compromise, and both sides face more difficulties as more time passes. Differences of opinion in Israel on how to treat the Palestinians and the Arabs have strongly weakened Zionist Prime Minister Rabin's rule. Rabin visited the United States to strengthen his position and returned to Israel with increased support from Washington.

Among the Arab-Palestinian ranks, the wave of opposition against 'Arafat and his compromise with Tel Aviv has culminated, and the intifadah is powerfully continuing its path. The anti-Zionist operations by Fatah elements in occupied Palestine have rendered 'Arafat, who heads Fatah and who had issued orders to his elements for a cease-fire, weak and helpless. 'Arafat was only able to gain Fatah's support at a meeting of the so-called Revolutionary Council and the Fatah Executive Committee outside the occupied territories, in Tunisia.

The further weakening of the two sides is slowing the exchange of concessions between the two sides. This slowdown and the failure of the talks to render any results has increased public rage against the negotiators, and this in turn has made the talks more difficult and has rendered fewer results. This is the fate that the talks, which will resume in Cairo today, are facing.

The Zionist regime's foreign minister summed up the basic difficulties faced by both sides as issues pertaining to security, the transfer of power, and economic problems. However, the Palestinian side is pointing to the unsolved problem of the Palestinian prisoners, who are estimated to be 12,500 in number.

Among the differences, the Zionist regime is paying great attention to issues of security and economics. Security does not mean border security, but the security of the armed Zionists who are living in the settlements in the

Gaza area. Israel justifies the continuation of its occupation on the pretext of the security of these settlements, which are military fortresses and areas for the deployment of the occupying Zionist army.

Another issue that Israel pays attention to is economics, which actually forms the nucleus of the Gaza-Jericho accord. Even though the facade of the 'Arafat-Tel Aviv accord is security and, on the basis of this, a new political array is to be formed in the region in which Arab countries are to be organized with Israel as the axis, the basic interest is nevertheless in the formation of an economic array in the Middle East in which Israel will form the major and superior pole. And it is for this reason that the Zionist finance minister said that the entire Gaza-Jericho accord is threatened with disintegration if the Israeli-Palestinian economic committee, which is to begin working in Paris tomorrow, fails to achieve a successful outcome.

Thus, the assessment that the Gaza-Jericho accord is, first and foremost, a profitable economic project for Israel rather than anything else is not very far from truth.

India To Help Construct Rail Link With Central Asia

LD1511095693 Tehran IRNA in English 0932 GMT 15 Nov 93

[Text] New Delhi, Nov. 15, IRNA—The Indian Government will participate in construction of the railroad link between Iran and Central Asia.

A high-level team, consisting of experts from Indian Railways, will leave for Tehran this week to follow up implementation of the agreements arrived at in the course of the signing of a memorandum of understanding in Tehran between the Indian prime minister, Narasimha Rao, and Iran's President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

An official spokesman for the Indian Railways, M. Siddiqui, told IRNA that the Indian expertise will be used to construct the 300 km-long railway up to Iran's border with Turkmenistan. The railway line will connect the Turkmenistan city of Tedzhen and Iranian cities of Sarakhs and Mashhad, close to the border.

A number of West European multinationals like Germany's Seimens and Sweden's Asea Brown Boveri (ABB) are also in the fray for the contract, which will be finalized soon by the Iranian Government.

"Besides promoting economic cooperation, this project will also be a major step towards realising the concept of a Euro-Asian rail-road connection," Siddiqui further added.

According to the spokesman, Iran and India have both interests in completing the link which will help in economic development of Central Asia—in which Tehran is playing a dominant role—and also making a significant contribution to regional cooperation.

Siddiqui further said the Iranian Government has already indicated to India that New Delhi could get the lion's share in the dlrs. 2 billion project. A number of state-owned Indian companies are already involved in the dlrs. 47 million contract for the Ahwaz- Bander-e-Imam signalling project.

Diplomatic observers here say Iran is not solely depending on the Turkmenistan railway project to capitalise on its closeness to Central Asia. The Iranian Government also has a plan to spend nearly dlrs. 2.5 billion for upgrading and extending a railway line from the Caspian Sea to the Persian Gulf.

With the completion of the link, trade between south and west Asian countruies is expected to increase remarkably as speedy movement of goods and machinery will increase the trade turnover all around, the observers said, adding that the region's tourism is also likely to receive a boost.

Khamene'i Addresses Members of Academy of Sciences

NC1611084593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, met the Board of Trustees and members of the Academy of Sciences of the Islamic Republic of Iran yesterday. He referred to the great talent in Islamic Iran and emphasized the need to revive and spread interest in the pursuit of knowledge and research to raise the country's scientific level.

The esteemed leader described the formation of the Academy of Sciences as an important and necessary step. Stressing the need to take the Academy seriously, he stated: Iran is a country that generates knowledge. Friend and foe know that science and knowledge flourished in Iran throughout history. Now, the existing talent should be identified and put to its best use with the formation of high-level scientific centers.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i highlighted the need to pursue knowledge and the spirit of research and to use the knowledge of others throughout the world, saying: Using science to gain income is rejected and our scholars should offer any service possible to help the progress of science and to attach true value to knowledge.

The leader of the Islamic revolution criticized the West for exploiting knowledge to promote materialism, individualism, and corruption and stated: In the world today, a country that is advanced in knowledge is also ahead of others in corruption and today, America, which is at the forefront of insecurity and crime, is a good example of this reality.

The esteemed leader referred to those who revived science in the West as the fist victims of the decadence ruling the West, saying: We should couple scientific

development with the growth of morality and the promotion of virtues and hoist the banner of knowledge as a sign of the spread of morality.

Earlier, Academy of Sciences head Shari'atmadari reported on Academy activities and said its basic duty is to raise the country's scientific level, improve education, expand research, encourage researchers and scientists, and improve seminars, conferences, and scientific associations.

The Academy of Sciences was formed in 1990 on a decision by the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution. Its activities lie in the humanities, Islamic teaching, engineering and agriculture, basic sciences, architecture, and art.

Workers Protest Changes in Labor Law

LD1711180393 Tehran IRNA in English 1441 GMT 17 Nov 93

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 17, IRNA—Hundreds of workers representing various factories in Tehran Province gathered at workers' house Wednesday [17 November] to voice their opposition to a proposal by the plan and budget organization on amending certain articles of the labor law.

The workers' representatives, chanting slogans in support of the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, said they resented any change in the labor law.

In a speech to the gathering, the workers' house secretary General Alireza Mahjoub said that the plan and budget organization should have sought views of the workers before proposing amendments to the labor law.

"We have frequently requested planners of the country to consult with workers' representatives on labor related issues, but no positive reply has ever been given to those requests," Mahjoub said.

He also termed the proposal of the plan and budget organization as "unfair and biased."

Commerce Minister Introduces Measures To Boost Trade

LD1411204493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Nov 93

[Text] In order to coordinate production and distribution in the country, production and trade councils are to be established and trade responsibilities are to be transferred to provincial trade offices. With the establishment of several new institutions, the center for the promotion of exports is to be strengthened.

Announcing this information in an interview with reporters today, Yahya ol-Eshaq, the commerce minister, added: In keeping with the Commerce Ministry's new policies, a council, consisting of producers and distributors and operating under the guidance of the Commerce Ministry, will be established to coordinate affairs relating to production and distribution. Commercial affairs will be transferred to the private sector to the greatest possible extent. The Commerce Ministry will act toward creating equilibrium by setting policies and exercising control.

The commerce minister said: The Commerce Ministry has also put the proposal to the Central Bank of prepurchasing foreign currency from exporters in order to strengthen the financial liquidity of nonoil exporters. In addition, in order to put up-to-date information at the disposal of merchants, it has been agreed with the Foreign Ministry to establish commercial representation in embassies.

Mr. ol-Eshaq said elsewhere in the interview: The structure of the Commerce Ministry will change in accordance with these aims and, in the provinces, commercial rights and responsibilities will be transferred to provincial trade offices.

The commerce minister also announced: All purchases of basic goods needed until the end of this year [ending 20 March 1994] have been completed and there will be no problems with respect to the supply of provisions distributed on the basis of ration coupons.

Ministry Deems Student Political Activity 'Essential'

LD1311200393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Nov 93

[Text] Creation of student political formations capable of achieving a true analysis of the main political issues of the community is a necessary issue.

The Ministry of Culture and Higher Education deputy for cultural and parliamentary affairs, making a statement at a news conference this morning, explained the ministry's moves for the further participation of students in political activities and added: Since students and university graduates are in charge of many of the state's industrial, economic, and educational affairs their participation in the political activities of the community is deemed to be essential.

He said: Taking into consideration the recent emphatic statements of the exalted leadership regarding the participation of students in political activities and the regulations for the students' political formations—approved by the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council—the students are allowed to expand their political activities.

He added: For the purpose of active participation of the students and lecturers in political affairs, the setting up of some formations for political activities have been envisaged.

Interior Minister Comments on Students, Political Parties

LD1611185093 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 16 Nov 93

[Excerpts] Following the guidelines issued by the eminent leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, in connection with the presence of students on the political arena at universities, the Interior Ministry announced its readiness to cooperate with students in forming student associations and groups.

In an interview with our reporter, Interior Minister Besharati referred to this issue and said:

[Besharati] Our aim is to increase the political knowledge and enhance the political culture of university students. [passage omitted]

The Interior Ministry will provide students with the necessary means and resources, and will cooperate with them extensively to enable them to form their political societies and associations.

[Correspondent] Please tell us if the Interior Ministry has any plan at present in connection with activities by political parties.

[Besharati] So far we have received 114 requests from various associations and groupings who are applying for a license. So far we have issued 50 licenses for 50 groups, and the remaining applications are under review. Once the Interior Ministry's experts have concluded their reviews, licenses will be issued gradually.

Pakistan

Spokesman Notes Kashmir Troop Reduction Proposal

BK1811025893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Nov 93

[Text] Pakistan has proposed reducing the number of Indian troops in occupied Kashmir and improving the situation there so as to create a conducive atmosphere for initiating meaningful dialogue with India for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday that there will be no use in holding talks unless the situation is conducive for the them. He said that the end of the Hazratbal shrine is a good thing and Pakistan welcomes it.

Referring to Indian allegations, the spokesman said that at first, it was alleged that personnel of Pakistan's Inter Service Intelligence were inside the shrine, and now they are claiming that two citizens from Azad Kashmir were present in the shrine. The spokesman said that India should shun such attitude.

Editorial Views India-Iran Pact on Transport Links

BK1811094993 Islamabad THE NATION in English 18 Nov 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Iran-India Pact"]

[Text] India is said to have signed a pact with Iran to develop Iranian rail and road links with the Central Asian Republics. In return Iran is said to have agreed to provide transit facilities to India in its trade with the republics. It is a matter of record that after the breakup of the Soviet Union, India made concerted efforts to have a presence in these republics and to some extent it succeeded. It thought, with some justification, that so long as Russia continued to have a leverage with its former republics, India's interests there could be safeguarded. The only problem with that logic was geography. The three countries bordering the Republics—Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan—had far stronger links with Pakistan that with India. Pakistan was relatively slow to wake up to the opportunity of forging trade links with the region, but once it did, first through the visits of Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, then the State Minister for Commerce and then the joining of the Republics in the ECO, the balance of advantage seemed to have tilted in Pakistan's favour. But then came a period of inactivity during which Pakistan failed to follow up on that advantage. The Indians in the meantime, continued to look for an opening to neutralise their inherent disadvantage of geography. That opening has now been provided by Iran.

Iran being a sovereign country has, of course, the right to allow its territory to be used by anyone for trade or any other purpose and Pakistan cannot raise any objection to that. There is, however, a moral consideration that Iran may have overlooked. We would like to point it out now because Iran itself is on record, having taken serious notice of it on some occasion. That consideration pertains firstly, to Indian record of human rights violations against which not only all the Islamic world but also the Western countries have raised a voice. Secondly, to India's anti-Muslim policies, the most recent illustrations of which were demolition of Babri Mosque, massacre of the Muslims in Bombay and of course the continuing genocide of Kashmiris. And thirdly to India's indirect attempt to undermine the economic ties of ECO, of which Iran as well as the Islamic Repubnlics are members. May we suggest that Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, in consultation with his Iranian counterpart, have the long-range impliocations of Iran-India pact examined. And if that pact cannot be undone, at least have its implementation deferred till India changes its attitude towards the Muslims in general and Kashmir in particular.